



Call for contamination checks at controversial site

RESIDENTS RESIST TRAVELLER CAMP

Report by Steven Jones

RESIDENTS have vowed to conduct their own contamination checks on a controversial site where a travellers camp is planned.

Around 50 people gathered at the Apple Tree Inn in Coseley to voice their concerns over Dudley Council's plan to create a temporary travellers transit site in Dudley borough, so the authority has more power to halt unauthorised camps.

Proposals for the site in Budden Road were approved last month by the council's planning committee and the results of a public consultation, which runs until Saturday, will give the community the chance to have their say.

Resident Tony Sheldon, 70, said: "We are going to do our own test on the site to check for contamination. We're prepared to do anything to stop it. We will fund it ourselves if we have to."

Protesters have previously raised concerns over the safety of the site, which has been recorded as containing foundry and construction waste.

Cheaper

Mr Sheldon said: "When you stop and look at the sites that were suggested, how they came up with this as the preferred site I have no idea. There are more appropriate and cheaper sites to convert. What really gets me is the fact that they couldn't afford to refurbish the site a few years ago."

The issue was discussed for more than two hours by residents at the meeting.

Mr Sheldon added: "It's been said the site must not be near residents' properties but it's right at the back of people's houses. There will be a 10 per cent depreciation in house prices because of the site and house insurance will also be higher."

IT'S SHOWTIME AS 150 DANCERS TAKE TO THE STAGE



Young dancers take part in the Dudley Performing Arts Festival, which got under way with a dance spectacular in the town hall

AROUND 150 dancers from across the borough have taken part in a dance festival at Dudley Town Hall.

Youngsters from colleges, schools and community dance groups joined forces for the Dudley Performing Arts Spring Festival.

Chris Jones, head of Dudley Performing Arts, said: "It was fantastic. There were some really high standard groups."

The style of dance ranged from contemporary and street to pure showbiz, such as tap dancing, at the festival event held on Thursday.

Mr Jones said: "Dudley Performing Arts Spring Festival, which is held over three weeks, is a festival for more than 1,000 children who dance, sing or play musical instruments, and who live or go to school in Dudley."

"It involves people who have been taking part for only a few weeks through to people who are going to go to music college next year."

"We, at Dudley Performing Arts, believe that the arts are for everyone and we hope that the festival inspires people to get involved."

For more information go to dudley.gov.uk/kids/performing-arts/dudley-performing-arts

POLICE

Commissioner wants to end gun 'subsidy'

HOME Secretary Amber Rudd has been urged to drastically increase fees that police can charge for firearms licences to stop forces from 'subsidising' gun ownership.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson says the region's cash-strapped force takes a financial hit of nearly £37 every time it issues a firearms certificate. He said the total loss last year was £98,000.

Current firearms charges do not meet West Midlands Police's administration costs from processing applications and making the relevant checks.

INDUSTRY

Bearings company expanding on estate

A LEADING manufacturer and distributor to the engineering industry has expanded its operations in Dudley, more than doubling the size of its industrial unit.

John Handley Bearings has moved from Wombourne to Building 69 at The Pensnett Estate, from where the family-run business will supply high-quality bearings.

The company is looking at employing additional staff in the coming months.

DEFENCE

Chief praises troops on first Afghan visit

DEFENCE Secretary Gavin Williamson praised the work of British troops during his first visit to Afghanistan.

The South Staffs MP visited a British Army base in the war-torn country, where he also met with Afghan Security Forces (ASF). British soldiers are providing support to ASF as part of a NATO operation. Mr Williamson commended the efforts of UK troops as the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade starts their mission.

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Tributes as true blue former MP dies, 75



Warren Hawksley in 2008

FORMER Halesowen and Stourbridge Conservative MP – and arch Eurosceptic – Warren Hawksley has died at the age of 75, following a short illness.

Mr Hawksley, who was also a director at Staffordshire-based substance abuse charity [Re-Solv, was one of the Maas-tricht rebels, one of only a small number of Tories not to have voted for any part of that EU treaty.

Mr Hawksley was known for his forthright views, particularly on law and order, having for many years called for the reintroduction of corporal punishment for young offenders.

He was the MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge from 1992-97, having previously represented Wrekin from 1979-87.

The Shropshire-born politician was renowned for his strong views on immigration and once called for a complete ban on immigration into the UK for five years.

Tributes have poured in for Mr Hawksley, who has been living in France with his family in recent years.

Mike Wood, the Conservative MP for Dudley South and a former Dudley councillor, campaigned for him in the 1992 and 1997 elections. He said: "I got

to know him beyond his slightly 'full on' public persona, and will remember him as a very kind and generous man, who was always very supportive."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis Conservative MP James Morris, said: "He served as Halesowen's MP for five years and is still fondly remembered by many for the way he represented the area and his strong opinions."

Stone's Tory MP Sir Bill Cash said of his fellow Maas-tricht rebel: "He was a great Eurosceptic."

Mr Hawksley is survived by his wife Kathleen and two daughters.

Cocaine king will have to pay back thousands

THE KINGPIN of a multi-million pound cocaine racket centred on Kingswinford has been ordered to pay back more than £500,000 of his ill-gotten gains.

Khalad Uddin had lived a luxury lifestyle as he gathered more than £2 million from his illegal activity, which saw him act as a link between Albanian gangsters in London and drug dealers in Kingswinford.

The crook, who was last year jailed for 16 years, has now been ordered to pay back some of his ill-gotten riches or face further time behind bars.

At a confiscation hearing, Judge Murray Creed declared Uddin had profited £2,016,351 from his offending. But the 36-year-old had just £541,334.52 available to hand back to the authorities.



Khalad Uddin

Uddin's property will be sold to gather some of the cash, Birmingham Crown Court heard on Friday. If he fails to pay up within the next three months he could face an extra five years in jail.

The cocaine gang was smashed by undercover police and saw 14 criminals last year jailed for a total of more than 100 years. The network included a five-strong gang in Kingswinford.

Uddin, described as the 'spider at the centre of the web', co-ordinated crooks in the Black Country, Oxford, the West Country and London. The defendant, formerly of Little Brewery Street, Oxford, admitted money laundering and two counts of conspiracy to supply cocaine. His jail term is running concurrently with a 14-year sentence for conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition.

Uddin lived lavishly, spending £62,000 on renting fast cars and expensive properties. He had 70 pairs of designer jeans.

West Side Story's happy ending



Planning a wedding – Mitch Bastable proposed to partner Beth Berwick-Lowe on stage in Stourbridge

WEST Side Story finally got its happy ending when one actor popped the question to his leading lady for real.

Mitch Bastable and Beth Berwick-Lowe are both members of Tab Operatic Society and both had major roles when the famous musical was staged in Stourbridge

last week, with Beth as Maria and Mitch playing Bernardo.

The musical updates Romeo and Juliet to New York street gangs in the 1950s and has a similar heart-breaking ending. But Mitch, from Pedmore, brought the joy back by popping the question to his girlfriend of 14 months, getting down

on one knee with a white gold 47 cluster diamond ring in his hand.

Mitch, 44, said: "We had just been to New York and I think people thought I would do it then, but that was obvious."

"So at the end of our last show on Saturday night I climbed up the balcony and proposed."

£20,000 bid to restore an historic burial site

AN historic cemetery is set for a revamp after campaigners launched a bid to restore graves and headstones.

Lye and Wollescote Cemetery, near Stourbridge, is in line for the restoration after a bid was made by a friends of the cemetery group. Soldiers from the First World War are among those buried at the site.

The move comes after the site's chapel which houses Dudley Council's Citizenship and Registration Services underwent a £1 million revamp in 2015.

A council report outlining the plans said: "An application has been received from Friends of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery, which supports the management of the cemetery so that it is a welcoming, accessible place for everyone in the community to be proud of and enjoy."

"The group is seeking £5,000 towards the £20,000 estimated cost of undertaking restoration to some of the famous graves and headstones in the cemetery, to enhance the walking tours for schools, students and the community."

The cemetery is looked after by the friends group. The site dates back to the Victorian era.

Local historian and author Jean Weston said: "A lot of people who helped to build Lye during the 19th century as an important industrial area are buried there."

MP campaigns on job exploitation

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called for a ban on companies taking people on for unpaid work trials which have no guaranteed job offer at the end.

Mr Austin said it was wrong that some businesses were asking potential staff to work for no money.

He cites one case in which prospective employees were told to work for 40 hours before they would be considered for a job.

The Labour MP said: "I'm not against proper work experience programmes for students but I have met young people in Dudley who have been expected to do unpaid shifts for free before they are even considered for a job. I think it is completely unacceptable. I want to see this exploitative practice banned. The Government should take action."

Singing for charity

MORE than £1,600 was raised at a retirement village's entertainment night in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Singers performed at Broad Meadow in Dudley. Money was raised by ticket sales, a raffle and also a coffee morning.

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Teenager is locked up after drug raid on flat

A TEENAGER has been locked up for three years after heroin and crack cocaine worth more than £4,000 were found in a raid on his flat.

Shane Bowater tried to escape through the back door but he ran straight into a waiting policeman, a court heard.

Mr Peter Grice, prosecuting, said officers converged on High Street, Lye, on February 27 last year. Bowater, who was 17 at the time, tried to flee with a bag stuffed with drugs and associated paraphernalia but was caught and arrested.

Inside the bag were 16 packets of crack cocaine with a street value of £770 and 80 wraps of heroin worth £820. Also found were £110 cash, a list of names and numbers, and a mobile phone with messages linking him to drug deals.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard a search revealed two digital scales, another dealer list and a mobile phone containing 'relevant messages', plus more heroin and crack cocaine.

In total, he was in possession of £2,300 worth of heroin and crack cocaine with a street value of £1,840.

Defending Bowater, Ms Nicole Steers said he had confessed to using and selling cannabis previously and claimed to have 'found' the heroin and crack cocaine. "He stole them," she said. "He thought it was cannabis."

She added that Bowater had to 'fend for himself' when he was put into care after the deaths of both of his parents.

Bowater, now 18, of Highland Road, Dudley, admitted two charges of possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply others.

He was sent to a young offender institution for three years.

Walking on fire for charity funds

A LAW firm with offices across the Black Country and Worcestershire is organising a fire and ice event near Dudley to help a local charity.

Thursfields Solicitors is inviting companies to take part raising money for Black Country Women's Aid by entering a team of five to take part in fire and glass walking at Himley Hall on April 25.

Entry will cost £300 per team and £30 for spectators or £30 per person. The price includes a hot buffet and live music from The Pete Boddies Band.

Thursfields, which has offices in Sedgley, Halesowen, Stourport and Kidderminster, will be helping the charity's work in the local area with the fundraiser.

Former Baggies star striker is bankrupt



Lee Hughes has been declared bankrupt

FORMER West Bromwich Albion hero Lee Hughes has been declared bankrupt.

Hughes, 41, who earned £20,000-a-week as a Premiership striker, joined non-league Halesowen Town FC earlier this month.

The former roofer began his career at Kidderminster Harriers before joining the Baggies, leaving in 2001 when he signed for Coventry for £5 million.

Last May he took his first steps in management when he became player-manager at Worcester City but

ended his contract to join for Evo-Stik Premier side Halesowen Town.

Hughes, who also played for AFC Telford, had two spells at the Baggies from 1997-2001 and 2002-2004, scoring 90 goals in 211 games.

He scored 70 goals in 139 games for Harriers.

Dangerous

He scored 203 league goals with seven different clubs but spent three years out of the game when he was sent to prison in August 2004 for causing a death by dangerous driving.

After his release from prison in August 2007, he played at Oldham, Blackpool, Notts County and Port Vale. He was then appointed as Worcester City's joint manager, after agreeing to rejoin the relegated National League North side.

The news of his bankruptcy was announced in the London Gazette, the official public record for bankrupts, after a petition was filed in January and heard in the High Court earlier this month.

Smethwick-born Hughes declined to comment.

Pot luck with hole heap of cash to repair roads

MORE than half a million pounds is being spent on mending Dudley's crumbling roads after sub-zero temperatures continue to cause havoc to the borough's highways.

Dudley Council has announced a further £164,000 to help repair damage to road surfaces after a winter that has taken a heavy toll on local routes.

It follows funding of £238,000 earlier this year and £150,000 in December.

Bosses say potholes have been made worse or new ones appeared as freeze-thaw conditions leave their mark.

The council has vowed to prioritise potholes despite slashing £300,000 from its streets budget in October. They claim to have 'streamlined' the service by focusing on the borough's biggest and busiest roads. The latest funding is part of an £844,000 pot of money from the Department for Transport paid to the West Midlands Combined Authority for the region.

Harsh

In Dudley, special pothole crews have been working round-the-clock since the harsh weather hit to tackle the damage left behind. The authority was already coping with damage caused by snow and ice in December.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The snow and ice we have had in recent weeks has really hit our roads hard - that's something we cannot avoid - but this extra money will go a long way in helping us deal with the potholes and other road defects. Our crews are working hard to identify areas and respond to reports, and I would like to thank motorists for bearing with us."

Council leader Patrick Harley has denied the authority's focus on main roads means more minor streets would be left unattended due to budget cuts, insisting teams could often react to potholes on quieter roads more quickly without the need for major expense.

The Department for Transport says the average cost of each repair is £53 with a total of 90,480 holes to be filled across the West Midlands.

Facebook plea locates stolen van



Businesswoman Julie Evans is delighted to get her van back after a member of the public spotted it in London

A BUSINESSWOMAN from Stourton who fell victim to thieves has seen her livelihood saved thanks to the power of social media.

Julie Evans came up with the idea of a Gamer Van - a video gaming vehicle for children's parties - and launched the company

last November. She spent thousands of pounds getting the business going only for thieves to take her precious van just after she had it painted with signage.

Julie put details of the theft on her Facebook page and it was shared more than 800 times, helping to track down the van 150

miles away, in south London. It was there that a member of the public liked the idea and looked up her page from the details painted on the van.

Her van had been stolen from from outside Wombourne Leisure Centre on Ounsdale Road on March 6.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver is charged over crash death

AN electrician has been charged over the death of a mother in a car crash near her home in Lower Gornal.

Vikki Jones, aged 30, died following the incident in Wood Road in Lower Gornal in September.

Tyler Kendall, 22, of Whitebeam Close, Lower Gornal, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving. He has also been charged with failing to stop after a road accident. Kendall will appear before Walsall magistrates on April 4.

Following Ms Jones' death, a vigil was held by members of the community and there were calls for road safety measures.

Roller up for a disco on wheels

FAMILIES are urged to get their skates on and head down to the new roller disco being held at a borough leisure centre.

Crystal Leisure Centre in Bell Street, Stourbridge, is offering a weekly family fun roller skating disco on Saturday evenings. Adults and children alike can whizz round the centre's sports hall to the latest tunes and practice their tricks and turns from 6 to 8pm. The session is suitable for all abilities and costs £5 for people bringing their own skates and £5.50 for those who need to hire skates.

Business park at heart of new zone

DUDLEY is set for an economic boost as council bosses were yesterday (Wednesday) discussing plans for a new business estate, as part of the DY5 Enterprise Zone.

A Local Development Order (LDO) for Blackbrook Valley in Brierley Hill could be rolled out on April 1 if Dudley Council's cabinet approved the plans.

The LDO would run for 10 years and make it easier for businesses to set up there by simplifying the planning process.

Blackbrook Valley is a key site in the DY5 Enterprise Zone.

Audition afternoon as theatre group recruits

WOLVERHAMPTON Musical Comedy Company is looking for recruits as it plans shows for this year and next.

Muscom will be holding an open audition at the Dormston Centre in Sedgley on Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4. The amateur company is currently planning productions of In The Heights and The Producers.

Places are available for over 16s, email hollywhitemuscom@gmail.com or call 07920011740.

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1,000 cars will roll up for show

MIDLANDS' Motorfest will return to the region next month with up to one thousand cars spanning a century of motoring. It will be back at Weston Park on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border on Easter Sunday, April 1.

From classic American cars to British icons, Motorfest attracts a wide range of vehicles including vintage commercials and custom cars.

More than 35 car clubs will display their members' stunning vehicles and the 'Decibel Duel' competition to find the loudest engine returns to the Live Arena. Tickets cost £8 adults, £3 children and £20 for a family ticket in advance. Visit classicmotorshows.co.uk

Choirs join forces in aid of hospice

A BLACK Country choir will be joined by three guest vocal groups for its 21st anniversary charity concert in Dudley.

Voices in Harmony from Cradley Heath will be singing in Dudley Town Hall on May 12 at 7pm. Also performing will be Viva Musica, Gentlemen Songsters and Colla Voce.

The concert, compered by TV personality and comedian Don Maclean, will be raising money for Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets cost £12 from www.vih-choir.org/contact-us/7-tick-et-secretary-or-from-the-venue.

Voices in Harmony also has a concert at Darkhouse Baptist Church on April 14.

Black Books star Dylan's Brum date

DOWNBEAT comedian Dylan Moran is returning to Birmingham on a new tour. The Black Books TV star will come to the region on his Dr Cosmos tour, heading to 41 UK venues.

He is set to offer his unique take on love, politics, misery and the everyday absurdities of life at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, on September 22. The comedian, actor and writer became the youngest winner of the Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1996.

Monthly drop-in coffee morning aimed at OAPs

PENSIONERS with a disability can visit a new monthly coffee morning in Dudley. The Age Ability Café, which has been set up by the Queens Cross Network in partnership with Disability in Action, runs on the last Friday of every month from 10am to 1pm for those aged over 67. Organised with Dudley Council, the café is held at the Queens Cross Network building on Wellington Road, Dudley.

Agency merger to make adoption easier

A NEW approach and website for people looking to adopt in the Black Country has been launched.

Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are coming together to create a new regional adoption agency, adoption@heart. The launch of the new website, which is jam packed with useful information, is the first part of the process.

A number of events will be held

during March across the Black Country where people will be able to find out more about adoption.

Although the four authorities have worked together for more than ten years to deliver some adoption services, the new agency will revolutionise the way adoption services are delivered across the Black Country.

It will combine existing services of each council to speed up the adoption

process and reduce the amount of time it takes to find permanent families for looked after children.

Councillor Anne Millward, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We're in the process of developing our regional adoption agency and we are really excited about the prospects it brings. The launch of the new website is the first step in us providing a regional adoption agency in the Black

Country. We hope this approach will streamline the adoption process and increase the number of children being matched with people wanting to adopt."

Visit www.adoptionheart.org.uk or call the free adoption helpline on 0800 073 0597.

Meanwhile, a major drive to find new foster carers in Dudley has also been launched.

£90k role aiming to help council save money

A £90,000-a-year officer is set to be hired by a Black Country council – and tasked with delivering millions of pounds worth of savings.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council is looking to bring in the high-earning commercial chief to lead its cost-cutting strategy. The authority is aiming to save £15 million by shaking up the way it buys goods and services.

Bosses said the new top officer would make the local authority more 'commercially savvy and efficient'.

But opposition councillors warned they would be 'keeping a close eye' on the new post to ensure it was delivering value for money.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "This is a very exciting and important move for us as we look to make this authority more commercially savvy and efficient than ever before."

"The person coming in will specifically be tasked with making significant savings. We are around 90 per cent self-sufficient, which means we rely less on Government subsidy but this appointment is about closing that gap even further."

Benefit

"The people who benefit from that in the long run are the taxpayers of this borough."

The new appointment will be tasked with ensuring the council makes better use of its funds and identify ways to bring more money in.

The Conservative administration unveiled major investment plans last year, including a new leisure centre built in Dudley and two others in Stourbridge and Halesowen refurbished.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council's Labour group, said: "We need to make sure that it is good value for money. Every position needs to be scrutinised and we will be seeking clarification that the outlay into this post is delivering results. We will be keeping a very close eye on this post."

A final decision on the post was due to be made by cabinet members yesterday (Wednesday).

Join the chorus on Good Friday

THE public have been invited to take part in a choral work, a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday.

The oratorio is being performed in St Thomas's Church in Stourbridge, March 30, at 6pm.

Visitors can pay £5 to take part in the rehearsal, from 3.15pm. Tickets for the performance are £7.

Dirty instruments led to ops being cancelled

By Jamie Brassington

HOSPITAL patients had operations cancelled on the day at Russells Hall as equipment was too dirty for doctors to use.

Medical instruments returned dirty from the hospital's sterilisation department forcing the last minute cancellation of three operations.

The report, sent out by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs the hospital, said: "We have had instruments returned from HSDU (Hospital Sterilisation and Decontamination Unit) either dirty or not in sufficient time for procedures to be undertaken resulting in on the day cancellations."

It comes after the it was revealed earlier this month that a man had a surgical instrument left inside him following an operation in October at Russells Hall.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We always do our best to make sure that operations and procedures go ahead as planned. However, sometimes we do have to rearrange operations due to unforeseen circumstances."

"We work closely with our partners and the instrument manufacturers to ensure all our surgical instruments are maintained, cleaned and available for surgeries."

"Our patients are our priority, therefore, if we are unable to safely perform an operation we will reschedule."

"We recorded one incident in February involving dirty instruments which led to three cancelled operations."

"We monitor every theatre list carefully and follow the national WHO (World Health Organisation) checklist so that any issue are reported and learnt from. We share that learning with all relevant staff."

It's a purrfect pint at top pub The Cat



Ryan Hunt, chairman of the Dudley and South Staffs branch of Camra, with Dan and Aimee Hicks at The Cat Inn

REGULARS came together to raise a glass in celebration after a village pub near Stourbridge was named one of the top hostellers in the region.

The Cat Inn at Enville was named Dudley and South Staffordshire's pub of the year by the Campaign for Real Ale. Customers raised their favourite local brew Enville Ale as hosts at the Bridgnorth Road pub were handed their accolade.

Dan Hicks, manager of the pub for six years, said: "I think we won because we are a traditional pub, a really welcoming country pub. The customers came out to support us when we were presented with the certificate."

The 300-year-old pub is now in the running to be crowned the West Midlands' best when it competes in the regional finals.

Mr Hicks, 43, who lives at the pub with wife Aimee and three-year-old son Harvey, said: "It's been great working here. It's my life."

Meanwhile, the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale has chosen its pub of the year.

Members will be visiting the winner, the Waggon and Horses, in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, at noon on Saturday to make the presentation.

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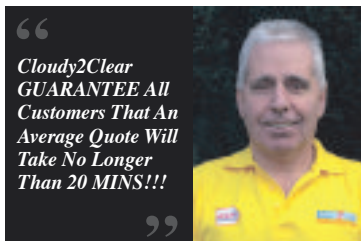
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Snow falls gave early spring a winter chill

SHOWS were cancelled, attractions closed and transport disrupted as more snow put a stop to a string of weekend events across the region at the weekend.

Most people were taken by surprise by the force of the latest wintry snap, dubbed the Mini Beast From The East, which covered the region under several inches of snow.

Snow ploughs kept Birmingham Airport running overnight although flights were suspended for a time.

National Express reported that a number of its bus routes had been cut short or diverted because of the snow across the region.

Among the early casualties of the weather on the events calendar was the Stafford Half-Marathon, which was called off on Friday. The event has been rescheduled to April 15.

The Severn Valley Railway managed to keep the steam train services running as scheduled for its popular spring gala.

The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley tweeted a picture of its snow-lined streets with the message that the venue would be unable to open on Sunday. Nearby Dudley Zoo was also shut and in Wordsley the Red House Glass Cone Museum was closed.

However, normal services were restored by Monday as a thaw set in as temperatures began to rise.

England game is to honour Cyrille

AN UNDER-21 international at Molineux will be played in tribute to football legend Cyrille Regis, the Football Association has announced.

England Under-21s will host their Romanian counterparts on Saturday (5.15pm kick-off) in a friendly contest that has now been dubbed the 'Cyrille Regis International'.

Wreaths will be laid by representatives of his former clubs West Bromwich Albion, Wolves, Villa and Coventry – as well as England – ahead of the game, while a minute's applause will also be held.

Regis, who won five senior international caps, and also scored three goals in six appearances for England Under-21s, died in January aged 59.

Seeking family

RELATIVES of a 52-year-old man who died this month are being sought. Black Country Coroner's Court is seeking family of Simon Beech, who died in Dudley on March 3. Call Elaine Huckfield on 0121 569 7200.

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Final blow for Hippodrome campaign



What now for Dudley Hippodrome?

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome have had their last ditch hopes of reviving the former venue quashed.

Council bosses agreed to take the landmark on Castle Hill back into their possession from Black Country Hippodrome group after ruling that a five-year lease was unworkable.

Dudley Council's cabinet voted in favour of retaining the building, which needs to have asbestos removed, after claiming the group which signed the lease in December 2016 failed to hit targets.

The decision made was 'called-in' to the council's overview and scrutiny board with campaigners hoping it would be referred back to the cabinet.

But now the Black Country Hippodrome dream has evaporated, after councillors agreed to take back control of the former theatre and bingo hall.

Gordon Downing, who represented the Black Country Hippodrome group, said: "The council has been dead against it right from the word go. I'm not saying individual councillors but the council in general since

we started six years ago. Every obstacle has been put in our way.

"If we can't get funding because the council hasn't backed us and we don't have a 25-year lease, I would like to know how we're supposed to get funding to remove the asbestos."

Strategic director for Dudley Council, Alan Lunt, said: "I think what the group has done they should be proud of. But unfortunately, it has failed."

The future of the building remains unclear but it is understood that Dudley College has shown interest in the site.

New police station at Brierley Hill proposed

A POLICE station will be rebuilt in Brierley Hill and two others in the Black Country revamped as part of cost-saving plans.

Brierley Hill Police Station, which is currently the headquarters for the Dudley neighbourhood, will be rebuilt under an estate strategy by West Midlands Police.

Wolverhampton's Bilston Street police station and West Bromwich's New Street station will be refurbished.

The planned work has come to light in a proposal to close 24 stations across the West Midlands, including eight in the Black Country, saving the force a total of £5 million a year.

The money will go towards work on the new and existing stations, which could cost up to £56m.

The force has said that the sale of the 24 stations will protect 100 police officer posts.

The proposal is being considered by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson this week.

Brierley Hill ward councillor Rachel Harris said: "This is good news for Brierley Hill. But I'm concerned that a revamp will actually turn into a closure of other services and a loss of resources on the ground.

Purpose

"Brierley Hill Police Station isn't fit for purpose. It has soldiered on and on and, particularly with austerity, it hasn't had a chance to be brought up to scratch. I have been in there and the police cells are appalling."

Mr Jamieson said: "West Midlands Police's plans protect the number of publicly accessible front desks in the Black Country and across the whole West Midlands.

"It is also important that staff have modern facilities to help tackle emerging crimes, whilst saving money to protect police officer posts.

"I am reviewing the chief constable's estates proposals. I will make a decision after scrutinising them."

Other stations to close in the Black Country, under the proposals, are at Sedgley, Oldbury, Bilston Prouds Lane, Tipton, Aldridge, Wednesfield, Smethwick and Wednesbury.

Full house for bingo with The Beast



Mark Labbett, AKA The Beast, from TV's The Chae meets fan Sue Blackwell at Shipley's in Dudley

DOZENS gathered to see 'The Beast' from popular teatime TV quiz show The Chase during his first visit to Dudley.

Mark Labbett was in the area to announce call out the bingo numbers at Shipleys in Market Place which was packed with 30 fans of the hit ITV show who were eager

for a chat, photograph and signature with their favourite 'Chaser'.

The 52-year-old TV personality shot to fame one of four brain boxes who take on teams on The Chase, which he joined in 2009.

But the Beast is not quite a big as he was, as he told the Dudley audience: "Just to let you all

know, I have lost two and a half stone in weight in the last six months so I am holding up my trousers at the moment.

"It is so good to see so many people here enjoying their bingo and it is fantastic that there is a place like this that people can come in and enjoy themselves.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Toddle time at the zoo again

CHILDREN are invited to take part in this year's Barnardo's Big Toddle at Dudley Zoo. The Castle Hill attraction will again be hosting the charity's annual sponsored walk for under-fives.

The event, one of the biggest organised Toddles in the UK, is on June 12 and 13. Admission is £7.50 but free for toddlers, and will include free refreshments and children's entertainment. A warm-up at 10.30am is followed by the walk at 11am with medals for all participants.

Register for your Big Toddle pack at www.bigtoddle.uk or call 0800 008 7005.

New nursery will bring more jobs

A NEW pre-school and nursery is being built in Dudley.

Owners of Little Kids Kingdom, in King Street, say they will need around 23 members of staff once the project is complete by the end of April.

Recruiters are currently working to fill managerial and carer positions at the two-unit, 6,000 sq ft, operation, which will look to provide places for up to 90 children.

Owner Stacey Thompson said: "We are in construction stages at the moment. It is two units that we have taken on."

Hospital's 'boat' race on dry land

A HOSPITAL charity is staging an Easter Bunny boat race on dry land.

Supporters of Dudley Group NHS Charity will be using a rowing machine in the main reception at Russells Hall Hospital for the fundraiser on April 4. They will be wearing fancy dress for the rowing relay in an effort to raise funds for the charity's End of Life Campaign. Some of the funds will go towards special LED sky ceiling panels for some of the hospital's rooms.

Donate via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/easterbunnyboatrace

Businesses at airport targeted by thieves

BURGLARS have targeted businesses at Halfpenny Green Airport, prompting a police investigation.

Units at the airport, near Bobbington, have been broken into by thieves.

Airport acting operations manager Tony Rowlands confirmed units at the site had been broken into but said the airport remained open.

Anyone with information can call police on 101 quoting incident number 121 of March 16.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Badger cull issue is not all black and white

UNSURPRISINGLY, public opinion is divided over plans to extend the badger cull to include Staffordshire.

On the one hand, the animal rights activists say that the mass killing of wildlife is barbaric and unscientific. On the other are the farmers, who say that thousands more cattle will have to be slaughtered unless something is done about bovine TB which is being spread by badgers.

Experience tells me it's wise to sit on the fence with this one. That's the trouble with badgers. It's never a black and white issue.

...

LET'S get this right. West Midlands Police no longer has police stations in Walsall and Dudley, two of the biggest towns in the force area. It is also planning to shut down a further 24 stations, which will leave many of our suburban and village communities without a base, saving the force an estimated £5 million a year.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson says the cuts are necessary to protect the number of officers as the force faces a squeeze on finances.

"It's important to remember policing is about people not buildings," he says.

I was almost convinced. But then we get the bombshell that they are planning to spend £56 million on refurbishing the police stations in Wolverhampton and West Bromwich, as well as completely redeveloping the one at Brierley Hill.

I'm sure these new-look police stations will be very nice, but I can't help but think that anybody who gets beaten up, mugged or stabbed in the centre of Walsall or Dudley would prefer a police station within walking distance. Even if it hasn't had a refurb.

...

WHAT is it with kids today? According to a survey, they are turning their back on alcohol and bingeing instead on coffee.

One in five millennials describes themselves as teetotal, and those that do drink average just two-and-a-half pints a week. Which explains why there were 6,000 pub closures between 2011 and 2016, and 2,000 new coffee shops opening over the same time. I suppose that is a good thing, but I do wonder about this generation.

They wander around, headphones in the ears, oblivious to what is going on around them; bottle of water in the one and mobile phone in the other. And their idea of a good time involves sitting in Starbucks quaffing bucket-sized mugs of extra-strong coffee, often glued to their computer screens. Probably posting stuff on Twitter about Brexit or something.

Their parents must be tearing their hair out, hoping they will grow out of it.

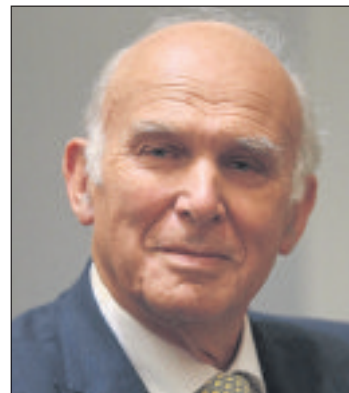
As the new 'Millionaire' host Clarkson gets some tips



Stephen Hawking – admired, cherished and respected by so many millions



Jeremy Clarkson – back on TV after altercation ended his BBC career



Vince Cable – says many older folk who opted for Brexit, "driven by nostalgia"

Best advice Jeremy: Watch what you say

AS part of his readmission to terrestrial television and civilised society, Jeremy Clarkson is to be the new host of Who Wants to be a Millionaire (ITV). In view of the unpleasant altercation with a producer which ended his BBC career, the great and good have been queuing up to offer the former Top Gear presenter advice. If Clarkson can avoid shouting "You lazy Irish ----!" at Celtic colleagues and punching them in the mouth, that'll help.

SO farewell, Stephen Hawking. Never in the field of modern science has one man been so admired, cherished and respected by so many millions of people who hadn't a clue what he was on about.

I AM taken to task for suggesting that in Black Country dialect, Barclays Bank might be pronounced "bonk." A reader insists that while "bonk" would be used to describe a hill or steep rise, a high-street bank is "bank." To make things entirely clear, he adds that "bankers" is pronounced as "them robbdoggin' piggantinn' wannmells." I am much obliged.

VINCE Cable says many older folk who opted for Brexit, "were driven by a nostalgia for a world where passports were blue, faces were white and the world was coloured imperial pink." Really? And how many older citizens has the Lib-Dem leader interviewed to arrive at this curious conclusion? Might it not be that older voters remember voting for a free-trade area of six nations, ended up in a superstate of 27 countries and decided this was no place for the UK to be? To lump all Brexit voters into the white-face, pink-map brigade is as foolish as suggesting that young people voted Remain because they're all a bunch of wimps, frit to

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



death of change and terrified by a challenge. Clearly, a ludicrous notion.

I REFERRED recently to the strange names used in television crime dramas. (Cormoran Strike, Kip Glaspie, etc) Walking past a canal I noticed the site where chemical toilets are discharged. What a great name for a detective it would make. Introducing Elsan Point.

THIS eternally slow spring reminds me of a conversation with an old chap on the harbour wall at Axmouth some years ago when the rain was hammering down from a leaden March sky rather like this week's. "Summer must come," he intoned with a wise smile. That year, it didn't.

AFTER campaigns, such as March4Women, NotMyJob and International Women's Day, I am made shamefully aware how many women seem to be desperately unhappy about the unfairness of being female and, presumably, think being a bloke is much easier. I am therefore delighted to announce the Tofad Programme. It is inspired by the "empathy bellies" worn by some caring, considerate men who want to know how it feels to be pregnant, and hobble around wearing a padded suit with a weighted, swollen abdomen. Under the Tofad Programme, women can become a man for 24 hours. Firstly, they will be surgically equipped with a fully functioning male thingy. Next, they will get a large injection of testosterone which will not only make the thingy work, but also make them fantasise about sex

20 times a day which is apparently the average for a young male (in later life one's thoughts turn to flatpack). And then, perked up by the male hormone and equipped with this curious appendage which cannot decide whether it's a battering ram or the last turkey in the shop, they will be released into society.

I BELIEVE women would come away from the Tofad (Todger For A Day) experience with a much better understanding of the male of the species. They might come to see men not as rampaging beasts but as models of restraint. On the other hand, they may thoroughly enjoy the experience and refuse to hand back the equipment. The NHS has the devil of a job getting old crutches back, so you can imagine the problem.

WAS anyone else of a certain age surprised by the oft-repeated safety warnings from the gunpowder makers in Lucy Worsley's Fireworks for a Tudor Queen (BBC4)? When I was a lad, you could buy a chemistry set at your local toy shop which not only contained the ingredients for gunpowder but also the instructions on how to blend it. While the Beeb's experts mixed gunpowder cautiously with a non-metallic stirrer, we merrily whisked ours up with a teaspoon. It really is amazing that so many men now drawing a pension have a full complement of fingers and toes.

STILL on weapons of mass destruction, how strange it is that the NHS, which is constantly wagging its finger and warning us of the long-term dangers of booze and baccy, waited a week before suggesting it might be an idea for people close to the Salisbury nerve-agent attack to wash their clothes.

TALKING POINT



Blink and all our city shops will be gone . . .

Years ago when my daughter was small I would make a lot of her clothes. I always found sewing quite relaxing.

Nothing complicated, just simple little dresses in fun material. She loved them. But I remember when her age suddenly – it seemed that way to me as her mother – went into double figures she asked that instead of home-made could she shop with her friends and go to the 'teenage clothes shops'. This was not so much to buy, but more to check out the latest fashions and have a giggle with her friends. That was when 'going into town' was a fun day out.

How things have changed over the years and sadly now quicker than ever. So many stores seem to be struggling and numerous branches closing down. For years we have worried about empty shops in Wolverhampton but if the big chains like New Look and Debenhams, are struggling what hope is there for the small independent shops?

I know internet shopping has taken over our lives, why not buy sitting at home on the settee with your tablet on your knee? But surely this takes the fun out of looking for and trying on garments.

Go into many town or city centres today and the number of people shopping is low, although there always seems to be plenty feeding their faces in the seemingly endless number of food outlets.

With grandchildren now I looked around for a shop to buy some material for a fancy dress costume. Where have all the shops gone that sell this sort of thing?

Yes Wolverhampton market on a Tuesday has always been great for material but a long trek in a lunch hour. Hopefully when it moves closer to the city centre that will help. The same with food shopping. There are no large food stores in the Mander Centre where you can pick up a shop. Iceland stepped into the breach after Tesco closed and now stocks a wider range admittedly but apart from that, one has to use the bus or car to travel out of the city.

All the major stores now seem to be based on retail parks, very useful as parking is easy. And maybe that is a big part of the problem. I work in the city centre but if not would I actually drive into Wolverhampton and find somewhere to park to do my shopping when many of the things I am looking for are no longer there? I don't think so.

And if I want a coffee – they are expensive – sorry to be mean but I would have one at home before I shop. Yes the internet is great but our town and city centres are slowly dying. Blink and they will be gone. Such a shame.

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Big business destroys towns not homeless

I MUST take issue with Stephen Fellows' recent letter headed 'Time to get tough on homeless', which relates to an issue close to my heart.

My father inherited a thriving newsagents, tobacconist and grocery business in Tipton having returned from France and Germany in 1945. He would start work before 6am, snatching lunch and dinner when he could and closed the shop at 8pm. He would then count the takings and work on the accounts for several hours, working six days per week.

He didn't get a holiday with his family for 15 years. He and mother had four children and two elderly ailing parents to look after.

Self-service stores began to flourish and despite dad's best efforts, the business had to close. Dad wept because he had no money to buy Christmas presents for us.

We lived at the shop, so we could no longer live there. It was only by the grace of a sympathetic councillor that we managed to get a council house, otherwise dad would have become

homeless and the family would have been split up.

This mirrors the decline of the Dudley shopping centre which Stephen Fellows blames on the homeless.

Misfortune can befall anyone, forcing them into poverty and homelessness. It is the greed of the conglomerates and the massive shopping centres that destroy town centres.

The homeless are the victims, not the cause.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Dudley

Should not encourage beggars

I SUPPORT Stephen Fellows of Sedgley who stated 'Is it not time that the council and police get tough on the homeless people taking over our doorways and towns.'

I counted five allegedly homeless people in Stourbridge complete with their litter of beds spread over the footpath which people had to walk around. On speaking to one I was told if I was not going to give him some money then I could **** off. Another I saw getting into a car to have a smoke.

I take it all these people are on benefits of some sort, so why do they have to downgrade and leave litter in our towns and cities, much to the affront of local people and visitors alike?

Well said Mr Fellows of Sedgley, I willingly give to local charities but never directly to these people as it just encourages begging on our streets.

ALAN THOMAS
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipsos at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipsos, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

What'cha Gonna Do About It

I'M a writer and musician, finishing a detailed book about The Small Faces on tour 1965-1969.

I'm looking to speak with fans who remember a gig on March 18, 1967 at The Gaumont in Wolverhampton. On the bill were Roy Orbison, The Small Faces, Paul and Barry Ryan, Sonny Child and TNT, The Settlers and The Robb Storme Group.

There have been some big-hitting musicians involved with interviews so far including Jon Anderson (Yes) Simon Kirke (Free), Arthur Brown and Nick Lowe.

I'm interested to hear of any stories or anecdotes relating to any of the above acts, in particular The Small Faces. Although the event took place over 50 years ago, I'm sure there'll be someone who has a story to tell. Hope you can help.

GUY MOWBRAY
Sheffield
mowbrayguy01@gmail.com

Town already has at least 11 CCTV cameras

WHY are Halesowen BID and Councillor Bills asking for CCTV cameras in Halesowen Town?

I walked around the town on Tuesday and counted 11 cameras.

Four are on the High St, including one right outside the William Shenstone pub looking at the entrance doors.

Ten of these cameras are 360 degree PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) and one fixed view at the bus station crossing.

Whilst one does not now expect 24 hour monitoring, they must still be recording and will have a rolling 30 day recording schedule. Can we be assured that these cameras are still working and data from them is recorded?

PETER ASH
Retired CCTV engineer, Halesowen

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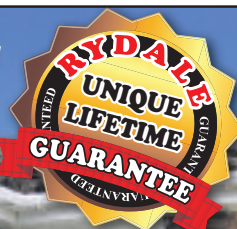
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The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

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The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none. More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open



Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors



Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes

the business across the country. Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

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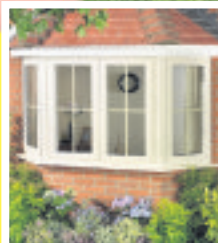
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Big day at the palace for former Mayor of Dudley

FOR years he has been dedicated to serving his community and now Councillor Steve Waltho has been royally honoured for his tireless campaign of work in the Dudley borough with an MBE.

The 62-year-old, who represents St Thomas's ward, picked up the royal accolade from Prince Charles for services to local government and the community at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. Mr Waltho, from Kingswinford, said: "It was a great experience I have to say."

"It was something that was never expected and a really lovely experience for me and the family on the day."

"I did not get over excited about - I am too old for that now I think. It really was an honour to receive it."

Amazing

"It is amazing the way the thing is put together because it is done with military precision."

Despite the trip to Buckingham Palace, the former mayor of Dudley has been determined not to let the award go to his head and has been back out in 'the real world' canvassing to maintain his seat.

Mr Waltho said: "The first thing Prince Charles said was 'when were you mayor of Dudley?' and I thought how does he remember that?"

"I said 'a couple of years ago' and he then he asked 'are you still a councillor' - he was very knowledgeable. I told him I was actually up for grabs this May."

"My dear wife Jayne went with me and my dear sister Alison - who was delighted about it all - and my eldest



Councillor Waltho receives his royal accolade from Prince Charles and a brief chat

son, Jay. The award is sat very proudly in our little display cupboard in our lounge at the moment. My wife said 'you can't get used to this can you?'."

"The only time I felt a little bit nervous was the final bit and waiting in the queue. You think 'It is nearly my turn and I hope nothing goes wrong or I don't fall over or anything'."

"It was just a very interesting experience and I am just glad my family

got the chance to sample that as well with me."

Wife Jayne took to social media to celebrate her husband's success.

She shared news of the London visit on Facebook, with swarms of well-wishers.

She said: "Proud, proud, proud of this wonderful, amazing man. The Black Country came to Buckingham Palace."

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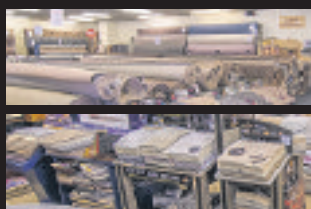
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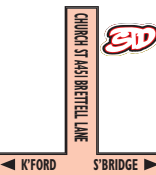
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10 Concern as more young men carry knives 'for protection'

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 22, 2018

MORE than 1,600 people were cautioned or sentenced for carrying knives and offensive weapons in the West Midlands and Staffordshire in one year.

Police say most of the people caught last year were young men aged 15 to 19 who claimed they were carrying the weapons for protection.

The number penalised for possession peaked over the two regions last year – with a total of 1,673 offenders – according to figures from the Home Office, the highest in the last eight years. The level dropped to 1,184 in 2014 but has since steadily risen.

Cinema will be dementia friendly zone

A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY community cinema has been launched in Coseley.

The first screening by community organisation East Coseley Big Local will be on April 17 in Darkhouse Baptist Church in Darkhouse Lane. The movie is yet to be confirmed.

It is part of efforts to support people living with dementia, their families and carers to continue to participate in entertainment.

The cinema will be open to the wider community but the screenings will be enhanced to suit the needs of people living with dementia. Email neil@eastcoseleybiglocal.org.uk to book a place.

Big Local is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and managed by the Local Trust after being allocated £1 million by the fund in 2011.

It brings into question the success of recent Government legislation, which sees people given a mandatory prison sentence when caught possessing a knife for a second time. The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star is campaigning for offenders not to be given a second chance.

Superintendent Ian Parnell said: "The consequences of carrying knives can be catastrophic. We've seen people suffer very serious injuries, while offenders can expect to spend many years behind bars."

Shocking

"If we look at the level of knife crime across the area we can see that although the statistics have increased recently – mirroring the national picture – it comes following a considerable decline leading up to the last few years. There is still much work to do."

"The people we find most often in possession of a knife in public are young men aged between 15 and 19."

"A common excuse we hear is that it's for their 'protection' but that is a total fallacy and it's shocking how many times young men are seriously hurt by the very knife they are carrying."

Widow's memories of her hero husband



Margaret Blakeway with a photo of husband Derek during his days with the police in the Black Country

HE spent 32 years in the police force and once saved a woman and her baby from a burning flat.

But Derek Blakeway will be most remembered for his love for classical music and Mozart, according to his proud widow, Margaret.

Scores of Mr Blakeway's friends and family turned out at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church in Cradley Heath last Monday to say their final farewells to the popular 82-year-old.

Margaret, 79, said the couple would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary next month.

"He was a very intelligent man and he was well-read. He loved every type of classical music. He really liked people. He was a very well-rounded man."

On April 1 1964, Mr Blakeway, who lived in Cradley Heath, made the headlines for his bravery when he saved a mother and her three-month-old baby from a fire in Cape Hill, Smethwick.

Mrs Blakeway said: "I could smell the smoke on his uniform. He did not think he had done anything out of the normal. I was proud. I kept associating that with the fact we had got a six-month-old baby."

Mr Blakeway, a constable in Smethwick and West Bromwich between 1955 and 1987, was a keen sportsman, playing football and cricket. He is also survived by his sons, John and Michael, and granddaughter Alice.

Hard-hitting report looks at problems

ALMOST 5,000 people in the Black Country and Birmingham are homeless.

Also more than two-thirds of people are overweight (68 per cent) and in the West Midlands there are just 75 jobs for every 100 residents.

Those are among the findings of a hard-hitting report released by the University of Wolverhampton.

The new report aims to help tackle some of the biggest issues facing communities across the region.

The findings were uncovered at a launch event for Communities Uncovered, with a purpose to examine issues affecting the Black Country.

Dr Steve Iafrafi, a lecturer at the university who led the research, said: "This report provides an accessible way to identify areas of need and to begin to recognise the ways in which certain groups may need supporting and that certain cycles may need breaking."

"One of the outcomes of the report is to identify a range of indicators and challenges facing various geographical areas within Birmingham and the Black Country."

"With this information, it is possible for the foundation to consider strategies for future funding, including which areas and themes to prioritise."

Sense launching new arts festival

AN arts festival organised by deaf-blind people is to be launched in Birmingham. National disability charity Sense, with Edgbaston's Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), has unveiled plans for the new arts festival from May 18 to 20. Sensibility Festival is a celebration of the senses. Visit macbirmingham.co.uk for more.

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Jacky Standish



Theresa Reardon



Vicki Ball



John Clews

ATTRACTIVE, confident and with a contagious laugh – that's professional chef, Jacky Standish.

Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has recently drawn up an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm not dying."

For Jacky, who was so ashamed of her teeth she walked her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people, clever dentistry at North Street has marked a new life chapter, punctuated with a list of the all places she's only dreamed of dining.

The former chef and house manager at Hagley Hall has undergone a major transformation after gum disease ruined her smile, confidence and her ability to chew properly.

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her new look. "My jaw is sore from smiling so much. No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth," she says.

WHEN Theresa Reardon from London set out to fix a longstanding dental problem she never imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer in Dudley.

Even a trip as a dental tourist to Budapest failed to help the 82-year-old.

After a lifetime of denture troubles, it was during a visit to a friend at Wolverhampton she found fresh hope in a newspaper article. For eight years the former Queen's Household domestic kept the cutting about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC108353.

"I read it over and over again, then one day booked an appointment," she recalls.

"I could never bite an apple – the bottom denture was all over the place – but the day I had my new dentures I went out and had a steak. Steven has done for me what no other dentist has. It's been a long time coming, I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them and she's gushing with the praise about her new smile.

A retired community midwife, who was based in Wordsley, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth."

Adding, "you can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my uncomfortable dentures."

I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out." Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower prosthetic and the prescribing of high quality, traditional upper dentures to help support facial features.

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

JOHN Clews is sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The skilled die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – and with multiple failing teeth, instinctively realised that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years he endured daily toothache, but crippled by fear of the dentist, avoided treatment until he could no longer tolerate the problems.

"I came here [North Street] and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life," he adds.

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and other remedial work,

John is now able to live his life without having to worry about his teeth.

And the dental phobia? "All staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

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Restaurants and shops go to auction

A FORMER Indian restaurant in Stourbridge is being sold at auction, among several Black Country business properties.

The old Monsoon Bengal Cuisine premises in Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, is laid out to provide 48 covers. It is described as on the first floor having potential for conversion to a self-contained flat, subject to planning permission.

The property has a guide price in excess of £100,000 in SDL Auctions Bigwood's next auction at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground on March 28.

A Stourbridge development site, which already has planning permission for two alternative developments, is another one of the lots. The land at 101 Birmingham Street offers a freehold development opportunity on a site of around 0.78 acres. The planning permissions relate to a development of restaurants, hot-food takeaways or other retail uses with nine apartments above and the other three units for food or retail purposes. The L-shaped site fronts on to Birmingham Street and is next to the River Stour. It has a guide of more than £500,000.

In Brierley Hill, 52 High Street is a prominent freehold town centre retail unit, which currently operates as a cafe trading as Jenny's. It has a guide price of £100,000.

It's not unusual to enjoy Kenny's show



Kenny Craig entertains the 50+ club at Wall Heath including, from left, Liz Austin, Colin Storey, Norma Beal and Marlene Penn

BLACK Country entertainer Kenny Craig took to the Wall Heath Community Centre to give the monthly 50 plus club a special show featuring the songs of Elvis Presley and Tom Jones – after meeting the latter superstar.

Professional entertainer Kenny Craig, from Sedgley, said: "I think Tom Jones is just a great vocalist and he is 77 years old. I met him at Beacon Radio in Wolverhampton once when he had got his new single at the time, Boy From Nowhere, out.

"The group have their meetings every second Wednesday and they do things for the community. They saw me at The Lodge in Dudley and then the community centre asked me if I could do their annual show at Wall Heath."

The singer's performance went down a treat with those who run the club. A total of 37 members of the club, which has been running for around 11 years, turned up to see Kenny Craig after his Christmas show was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Social secretary and treasurer Jan Store said: "He got the members of the club up and dancing."

Call to shut stores in honour of the fallen

SHOPS across the UK should be closed for an extra hour on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate 100 years since the First World War ended, according to a group of MPs.

Labour MP John Spellar has supported a Parliamentary motion on the issue and says such a move would allow shop staff to attend memorial events on November 11.

Commemorations have been organised throughout 2018 to mark the final year of the First World War. More than 800,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers died during the four-year conflict.

Mr Spellar, MP for Warley, said: "The 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War is a special occasion. It is only right that shop workers should be able to attend local memorial events." So far 45 MPs have supported the early day motion, including Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz. Another motion has been submitted by Labour MP Kate Hoey, who wants to see shops close for the entire day.

Two hours free parking aims to boost shops in town centres

SHOPPERS across Dudley could get two hours of free parking in town centres.

Dudley Council's cabinet was last night (Wednesday) expected to pass a proposal which would see the current offer of one hour free parking across council-owned car parks in Dudley doubled.

The anticipated move has been

hailed by Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley, who said: "People have told us that two hours of free parking will make a considerable difference and we are looking forward to rolling this out across the borough from the start of next month.

"This move will provide a huge boost to retailers. Dudley is the only council across the whole of the West Midlands providing this incentive and

is bucking the national trend, which has seen many local authorities increase car parking charges, using the motorist as a cash cow."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Again we are listening to what the people of Dudley borough have to say and we are extending the free parking to two hours to give shoppers longer in our town centres."

Sir Lenny leads Let's Play drama initiative

SIR Lenny Henry has launched an initiative aimed at encouraging schoolchildren to get involved in drama and the theatre.

The Dudley-born actor and comedian marked the start of Let's Play, which is a scheme by the National Theatre.

He voiced his support for the programme aiming to get children involved in all aspects of theatre production. It will commission new plays with songs and music for children and will provide teachers with training and development.

Sir Lenny made his National Theatre debut in 2011 in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors and is now a member of the National Theatre's board of trustees.

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Police helped by Zeus and Optimus Crime

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Oldbury and Dudley got the rare chance to name their local police vans – after both schools picked titles fit for the gods.

‘Zeus’ has been printed on the side of one of West Midlands Police vans, thanks to the creativity shown by pupils at Tivdale Community Primary School in Oldbury, while ‘Jupiter’ was dreamt up by children at Priory Primary in Dudley.

Hundreds of children from local schools entered the competition, organised by the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police, to name its latest vehicles.

The entries put forward by the pupils were all excellent, judges said, but they felt the winners had something a little bit special.

Other names chosen included Optimus Crime which came from Daylesford Infant in Solihull; Copzilla, thought up by Alderman’s Green Com Primary in Coventry; Proud to Protect, which was an idea from

Sacred Heart Primary in Birchfield; and Kit, which was the entry from St Mary & St John Junior & Infant in Gravelly Hill.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, said: “These names are wonderful. They bring a smile to your face. When I heard all the entries I was amazed by the imagination, intelligence and creativity of our young people.

“There is a serious side to this too though. The new state of the art police vans will now be put to good use helping to fight crime and arrest criminals.”

Sergeant Andrew Edwards added: “I have been astounded by the creativity and energy shown by the school children and the support provided by the teachers. Policing has been extremely challenging in recent times but this is why it is all the more important to invest our time with young people – to make a better tomorrow, with the help of Optimus Crime and his friends.”



Pupils at Tivdale Community Primary School with officers and the new van they have named Zeus

£350m boost to kick-start house building in region

THE West Midlands has been handed a £350 million war chest to kick-start the region’s biggest house building programme in decades.

Announcing the funding boost in his Spring statement, Chancellor Philip Hammond said the region had committed to delivering 215,000 homes by 2031.

It includes a £100m land and housing fund for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which will deliver around 8,000 homes on the Walsall to Wolverhampton rail corridor.

The deal comes after ministers revealed plans to bring the line back into use, including new railway stations at Willenhall and Darlaston.

The housing fund will focus on preparing brownfield sites for redevelopment across the Black Country with Smethwick highlighted as a key priority. It means the region will aim to build 16,000 homes a year, up from an average of 10,000 over the last three years.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, said the deal was ‘a huge milestone’ for the West Midlands that would help ‘relieve pressure’ on the greenbelt.

That has been a major issue in Halesowen where campaigners have feared pressure for homes would result in developments along the town’s rural fringe.

Taxpayers get bill for ‘morons’ jibe inquiry

DUDLEY taxpayers have been left with a £1,700 bill for an investigation into a Ukip councillor’s online rant.

Bill Etheridge was hauled before the town council’s standards committee after he posted Facebook videos branding Labour councillors ‘a procession of morons and imbeciles’.

The Sedgley councillor refused to turn up to the hearing, but in his absence was found to have breached the code of conduct.

It followed a complaint by Labour group leader Councillor Pete Lowe, who argued that Mr Etheridge’s comments had been ‘threatening and disrespectful’.

Following a request from Mr Etheridge, Mohammed Farooq, the council’s monitoring officer, revealed investigating officer John Austin’s fee amounted to £1,286.45 for the investigation.

A further cost of £413.55 is said to have been incurred due to council officers’ involvement in the investigation.



Ukip’s Bill Etheridge

Massive

Mr Etheridge, who is also a West Midlands MEP, said: “This is a massive bill of £1,700 for a witch hunt to close down free speech. The only punishment possible is a vote to censure me.

“I can’t be kicked off any committees since my work as an MEP prevents me from sitting on any in the first place.

“Labour group leader Pete Lowe knew this and yet still went ahead with the complaint at great expense to Dudley taxpayers.

“That money could have been spent on things like tree maintenance and road safety.”

Mr Etheridge posted two incendiary online videos following a heated full council meeting last year. He called the Labour group a ‘procession of morons and imbeciles’. He labelled them

‘Socialist do-gooder bleeding heart Communist rat bags’ and ‘pathetic tin pot nobodies’.

He also referred to the authority’s ‘crony Mayor in his Dick Whittington outfit’.

He said Dudley Council House should be demolished, and that he ‘wouldn’t care if councillors were inside’ at the time.

In his report, Mr Austin said that Councillor Etheridge had failed to value colleagues and ‘engage with them in an appropriate manner’ and had failed to ‘treat people including officers and the mayor with respect’.

Mr Austin accepted Mr Etheridge’s ‘ill chosen’ comments about the Council House being demolished had been made ‘tongue in cheek’.

Mr Austin added that Councillor Etheridge could be ordered to attend a training course as punishment.



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Ten are charged over alleged drone drug smuggling plot

TEN people – including several from the Black Country – have been charged over an alleged plot to smuggle drugs and phones into prisons using drones.

HMP Oakwood and Featherstone near Wolverhampton and HMP Birmingham, known locally as Winson Green Prison, were among those allegedly targeted to fly in contraband.

The eight men and two women have been charged with three counts of conspiracy to supply drugs, psychoactive substances and banned items. It is claimed the group used drones to drop the consignments over prison walls.

All 10 were arrested during raids as part of an investigation by the West Midlands Regional Prison Investigation Team in Birmingham.

Those charged are: Paul Payne, aged 33, of Broad Street, Coseley; Callum McDonough, 25, from Shenley Field Road, Northfield, Birmingham; Shane Hadlington, 29, from Sycamore Lodge, Oldbury; Hannah Williams, 34, from Horton Street, Tipton; Stella Deakin, 40, in Boundary Hill, Dudley; Richard Harrabin, 27, from Perton Grove, Weoley Castle, Birmingham; Jake Blewitt, 20, from Highfield Road, Tipton; Dwayne Tinker, 20, of Lindridge Drive, Minworth, Sutton Coldfield; Ryan Greaves, 21, from Kimberley Walk, Minworth; and Robert Morris, 43, from Sedgley Road West, Tipton

They are alleged to have been involved in an operation which saw up to 90 consignments of drugs, plus phones and SIM cards dropped over prison walls between April 2016 and June last year.

Prisons targeted were HMP Birmingham in Winson Green; HMP Oakwood and Featherstone; Worcestershire's HMP Hewell; HMP Risley in Warrington; HMP Wymott in Lancashire and HMP Liverpool.

Churchill Forge at the village of Churchill, near Hagley, will open on Easter Monday.

New for this year is the forge press, which will be demonstrated throughout the afternoon between 2pm and 5pm.

The press was made in 1926 by well-known Black Country engineers Higgins and Son of Lye. Weighing more than four tons, it is described as very impressive when running.

There has been a forge on the site since before 1800. The forge made hand tools such as spades and forks and ladles and was in use until 1969. Today it is a small industrial museum.

There are also two working waterwheels, both 17 foot in diameter, from the 1800s. Visit churchillforge.org.uk for more information.

See old forge press running as mill opens

It's a yes from me – Andy gets approval



Which is which? – Simon Cowell and Dudley's Andy Monk have met

A GRANDFATHER who has been regularly mistaken for Simon Cowell for the past 16 years admits he is asked for selfies and autographs on a daily basis.

Andy Monk, aged 59, has been confused with the famous music mogul and TV talent judge since 2002, when Cowell first gained fame for his appearances on Pop Idol.

Since then, Andy is taken for the star on a daily basis with 'fans' stopping him for selfies and autographs wherever he goes.

Even his grandson, William, aged four, shouts 'grandad' at the television when Cowell is seen on Britain's Got Talent. Andy admits he now goes along with it so people are not disappointed.

Andy, from Dudley, said: "For over 10 years now I've been mistaken for Simon, but I never saw it at first. It started because my friends would always comment that I looked like Simon, but now I get it from strangers every day. Every time I go shopping I get stopped by people and even if it's not for a photo or an autograph, I get whispers of 'oh look, it's Simon Cowell'."

"One of the times I met Simon he gave me the '100 per cent approval', so that really boosted my confidence."

The part-time DJ has attended multiple events as a Simon Cowell look-alike and even met his wife Rose Cook Monk, 48, when she was acting as a Debbie Harry tribute.

Land swap for museum car park plan

A NEW car park will be built at the Black Country Living Museum as part of its bid to attract thousands more visitors.

Extra spaces will be created at the attraction on Tipton Road following a land swap deal with Dudley Council.

Museum bosses have been keen to free up more room in order to provide extra space for vehicles at the popular attraction, which is set for major growth over the next decade as it adds a 1960s zone to its Victorian and 1930s attractions.

Council bosses have agreed in principle to hand over the land to allow the car park to go ahead and it was due to be approved yesterday (Wednesday).

In return, the museum will give the council a 1.5 acre patch of land it owns near to the recently approved Very Light Rail development and close to where the extension to the Metro line from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill will run.

The Black Country Living Museum is hoping to attract an extra 200,000 visitors a year once its expansion is complete.

The £10 million project will see the museum grow in size by about a third and involve the creation of a new post-war town. Several iconic buildings, including the old West Bromwich Gas Showroom and Dudley's Woodside Library, are being rebuilt there.

TV expert is to give talk about wildlife

A TV wildlife expert is to give a talk in South Staffordshire later this month.

Kate MacRae, who has appeared on Countryfile, Springwatch and Autumnwatch, will give a talk entitled Create Springwatch in your Garden on March 29 at 7.30pm at Wombourne Community Centre, hosted by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Admission is £2.

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For the first time in 30 years, Chess will see a big revival in London with a star studded cast including Michael Ball and Alexandra Burke, for a limited time only. This symbolic production tells a story of love and political intrigue, set against the background of the Cold War in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

This epic musical love story features music by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (former ABBA stars and songwriters) and lyrics by Tim Rice (famed for Jesus Christ Superstar, The Lion King and Evita).

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Cheryl lost 15 stone but didn't give up curry

AT her heaviest she was tipping the scales at almost 25 stone filling up on piles of cheese and onion sandwiches, takeaways and jars of peanut butter.

Now mother-of-two Cheryl Roberts, from Stourbridge, is half the woman she used to be after losing 15 stone – and all without ditching her beloved curries too.

The 39-year-old Gig Mill Primary School dinner lady decided to start shedding the pounds properly in 2014 joining a slimming group and hitting the gym.

In just four years she now looks a different woman and is down to 10 stone and a dress size 8, or 10 depending on the shop.

It is a far cry from when Cheryl was almost a size 30 and would dread going shopping for clothes at Merry Hill.

In the past the former Ridgewood High School pupil said she used to love filling up on her favourite cheese and onion sandwiches and peanut butter.

And when out drinking she would down pints of cider followed by takeaways late at night.

Curry

But now her diet consists of home-made healthy curries and she has switched from pints of cider to slim-line gin and tonics.

Mrs Roberts said: "For breakfast I would smother peanut butter on four rounds of white bread every morning."

"I did used to like going out for a drink but I knew I couldn't carry on drinking eight or nine pints of cider a night."

With the support of her two sons Jack, 15, and Max, 11, Cheryl lost five stone by hitting the gym at the Fitness



Then – Cheryl Roberts used to weigh almost 25 stone



And now – Cheryl has lost 15 stone and looks a different woman

Factory in Wollaston before joining Slimming World in 2014.

She hit double figures in weight loss after being with the Norton group for two years and battling through an underactive thyroid to hit the overall 15 stone loss.

The hard work was recognised when she was nominated as a candidate for Slimming World's Consultant Slimmer of the Year 2018 competition – which

later saw her attend the semi-finals at the club's head office in Derbyshire in February.

Cheryl was presented with a certificate and a glass trophy by Slimming World's CEO Caryl Richards.

She now supports 45 others on their own weight loss journeys at the Slimming World group in Norton, which she now runs.

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A NEW season of exciting shows is coming to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

Shows vary from West End musicals and dramas, to dance productions and one-nighters.

Highlights include smash-hit musical The Bodyguard, a new production of Doctor Doolittle The Musical, Belinda Lang and Oliver Cotton in Duet For One, as well as Joe Pasquale, Russell Watson, Doreen Tipton and the National Theatre returning in 2019 with Macbeth. Tickets are now available, online and over the phone.

Among the most highly-anticipated shows is an evening of Eric and Ern on November 14.



An evening of Eric and Ern



Doreen will be there with her new live show

Acclaimed

The show is from the Olivier-nominated duo behind the hugely-celebrated and critically-acclaimed West End hit Eric & Little Ern.

The Bodyguard returns for two weeks only, from June 25-July 6, 2019. The show's cast is yet to be announced.

After an acclaimed run in London's West End, Tom Kempinski's multi-award-winning play Duet for One is coming to the Grand between October 2-6. Black Country favourite Doreen Tipton is bringing her latest show, Doreen's Big Top, to the theatre on November 2.

Doctor Doolittle the musical returns to the stage in Leslie Bricusse's acclaimed family musical for two weeks, from January 29-February 9. The National Theatre returns to Wolverhampton with Macbeth, from March 12-16.

Joe Pasquale burst onto our TV screens 30 years ago on ITV's New Faces. He will be in Wolverhampton



Joe Pasquale is due in September as part of his 30th anniversary tour

on September 12 as part of his 30th anniversary tour. Russell Watson, who has performed to The Pope and two US Presidents, will be at the theatre on September 24.

Other shows announced for September include Brum Rocks Live on September 9, Faith - The George Michael Legacy on September 10, A Black Country Night Out on September 11, and Milkshake! Live on September 22.

The Whitney Houston Show takes place on October 28, St Matthew Passion on October 29, Mother Goose on October 30, The Stylistics on October 31, That'll Be The Day on November 15, Wicked Wizard of Fizzog Comedy Show on November 17, and West Side Story from November 27 to December 1.

Heading into 2019 is Russian State Ballet of Siberia Triple from February 10 to 12, The Elvis Years on February 13, The Sensational 60s Experience on February 16 and The Producers from March 5 to 9.

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18 £32m revamp under way at business park

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 22, 2018

A CEREMONY has marked the start of work on a multi-million pound scheme to build new industrial units in Tipton.

Halesowen-based A&H Construction has been appointed by developers CEG to deliver the revamp of Vaughan Park, a £32 million scheme it is hoped will create up to 1,000 jobs.

CEG has secured planning permission from Sandwell Council to build five industrial units totalling 80,000 sq ft. The scheme involves flattening most of the existing buildings on land neighbouring the Thomas Dudley foundry and CAB Autos factory.

Further work on the 28-acre site could see the business park expanded to 500,000 sq ft of industrial and warehouse space.

At a ceremony to break ground and mark the start of construction work, Sandwell's regeneration cabinet member, Councillor Paul Moore, said it was encouraging to see another speculative commercial development taking place in the borough.

He said: "There is no doubt that Sandwell offers businesses wishing to expand and grow a chance to move to an area at the forefront of industry, with established supply chains, great access to the motorway network as well as a highly skilled workforce."

A&H Construction started work on the site last week and units will be ready later this year.

Lots of laughs as play is going wrong again

ONE of the most popular stage comedies of recent years is making a triumphant return to Birmingham Hippodrome for The Play That Goes Wrong... again.

Comedy chaos ensues in this frantic farce about accident-prone amateur thespians. It's staged from Tuesday to Saturday.



Claire Dolman pairs a hat and dress at the museum



A dress and the patterns it was made to



Shirts of different types and sizes



A stylish period hat



Claire puts the finishing touch to a hat



There is always something that needs ironing

Claire's got history all sewn up

FROM a chainmaker in the forge to a barmaid at the Bottle and Glass – it's seamstress Claire Dolman's job to help bring the Black Country Living Museum's costumed characters to life.

Behind the scenes, Claire and her team of six volunteers are hard at

work creating authentic-looking outfits for around 200 staff.

"The clothes are an important part of the story that we are trying to tell at the museum so we want them to be the best they can be and look correct for the period we are focusing on," says Claire, who has worked at the attraction for almost four years.

Each costume is thoroughly researched by the team who will look at

what someone of that age and class would have been wearing at the time, paying attention to all the details.

"It's easy to get influenced by what is fashionable now but we need to look at the colours and prints that would have been around then," says 41-year-old Claire, from Wolverhampton, who uses a combination of original patterns, photographs and tailors' books from the period.

The museum's collection of original clothing is also used to guide the team and then can also use them to make a pattern to create a replica garment. Materials such as wool and cotton come from a range of suppliers but sometimes inspiration will strike when Claire is out and about.

"I found a duvet cover in Primark with a flower print that was spotted on for 1880s-style dress. As soon as I

saw it, I knew I had seen something like it before from that period. I was pleased with how the dress turned out and it only took a day-and-a-half," says Claire, who has always enjoyed sewing as a hobby.

Hats had always proved a challenge but Claire has taken a millinery course to help hone her skills. Claire also runs a knitting club at the museum.

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Playing for laughs as play went right

A brilliantly funny comedy that will have fans aching with laughter will head to the Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to March 31. The Play That Goes Wrong features the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society who are putting on a 1920s murder mystery.

As the title suggests, everything that can go wrong... does and as the accident prone thespians battle on against all the odds to reach their final curtain call, hilarious results ensue.

Hailed 'a gut-busting hit' by the New York Times, Mischief Theatre's sell-out West End comedy, which is now playing on Broadway, has won a host of celebrity endorsements from the likes of Joanna Lumley who said: "We laughed until the tears ran down our faces, it has to be seen" to Ant & Dec, who said: "The funniest show we've seen! If you can get a ticket, go!"

The show is returning to Birmingham after a sell-out run last year.

Director Mark Bell created the West End productions of the Olivier Award-winning The Play That Goes Wrong, as well as The Comedy About a Bank Robbery. He originally wanted to be an actor but spent a lot of his career training and teaching the art of clowning and is a virtuoso at shaping comedy.

CHOICE

He was immediately drawn to The Play That Goes Wrong. "It needs to make me laugh, or I can see how it would be funny. Sometimes on the page they don't look like that much, but I was at the very first reading of The Play That Goes Wrong and that was obvious - I could see where they were going to take the characters, playing off their idea of the audience - that was an easy choice.

"I honestly don't know, I don't have a method - you just read it a couple of times and see if you can picture how you would do it. I knew straight away the kind of actors I would want and how I would approach it."

Mark puts in hours and hours during rehearsals to make sure his shows are funny.

"You just don't know - sometimes it's the little innocuous things that you've put in to bridge from one moment to the next suddenly start getting a laugh, and you just wonder why."

"Usually the penny drops and you see why. I don't think anybody can really anticipate where the laughs will land, sometimes it's just a simple movement that an actor does that's funny. I would say about 80 per cent of stuff that we put in rehearsal lands and we don't have to change, and there's always a couple of things that you're sad aren't working and you have to change."

He says the most important thing is that people take their characters seriously, even in shows as silly as The Play That Goes Wrong.

"As the actor playing it,

Playing for laughs - The Play That Went Wrong



you can never show the audience that you find it funny. The character on stage has to be laughed at and not with. Sometimes you get characters who enjoy being laughed at and that's fun for them. For actors I say you have to play it truthfully, like you're playing a dramatic part. Treat it like you're doing a Chekhov play. Comedy isn't easier than dramatic acting, it's ten times as hard. You need the same dramatic truth that you have for the character but in a ridiculously absurd setting, whilst getting your blocking and your timing exactly right, otherwise you don't get the laugh that you need for the show to move on. You've got to be both truthful and a master technician at the same time - and that's hard."

The successful UK production has been described as having sets as shaky as a Conservative immigration manifesto pledge

I don't think anybody can really anticipate where the laughs will land

and a script as tortuous as a Diane Abbott interview. The show originally started in a pub theatre before transferring to the Trafalgar Studios, enjoying a UK tour and an extended run at the Duchess Theatre in the West End.

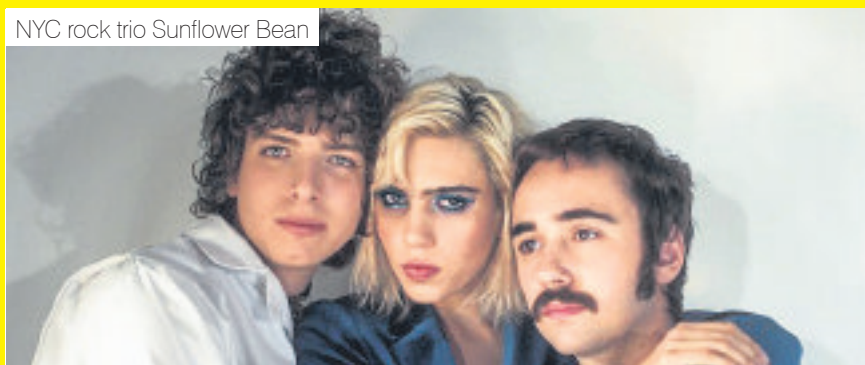
The writers and creators of the play, Henry Shields, Henry Lewis and Jonathan Sayer, are stunned that they were able to recreate their madcap roles on Broadway.

Henry Shields says: "It's been very positive. We've been overwhelmed as to how supportive American audiences have been."

Henry Lewis adds: "We haven't really changed much, most of the show is performed as it is in London. Over the course of the whole journey of the show lots has changed as it has been performed, but it hasn't changed much for Broadway audiences, just a few terms that aren't used in the USA and making sure that's clear."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

NYC rock trio Sunflower Bean



Traumatic times inspiring for young human Beans

New York trio Sunflower Bean tomorrow (Friday) release their second album, *Twentytwo in Blue*, ahead of a gig at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, on Tuesday.

The album gets its title from the fact that all members of the band – Julia Cumming, Jacob Faber and Nick Kivlen – are 22-years-old.

The album comes just over two years since the release of their critically acclaimed debut album *Human Ceremony*. Since then the band's classic rock inspired sound has matured and gigs supporting Wolf Alice last year have won them new fans in the UK.

Twentytwo in Blue shows Sunflower Bean staying true to their guitar band core, while exploring new sonic textures with more direct and progressive

themes. It showcases how far the band has come since playing together in their high school days.

To celebrate the album Sunflower Bean share a new single, *Crisis Fest*, the follow up to the catchy, almost Fleetwood Mac-like, *I Was A Fool*.

"2017—we know/ Reality's one big sick show/ Every day's a crisis fest," vocalist and bassist Julia sings. "Last year was extremely alarming, traumatic, and politically volatile," says the band. "While writing this album, we often reflected back on the people we met while on tour."

"We felt a strong kinship with the audiences that came to see us all over the country, and we wanted to write a song for them – something to capture the anxieties of an uncertain future."

Disney favourites to enchant the ice



From wheels to waves, icy wonderlands to infinity and beyond, dozens of favourite Disney moments will come to life at Disney On Ice presents *Worlds of Enchantment*.

Eight shows are planned at Birmingham's Genting Arena between Wednesday (March 28) and Sunday (April 1) as the magic of Disney is brought to life by some of the world's best ice skaters.

The latest show is called *Worlds of Enchantment* and fans can enter the dazzling world of Disney

for non-stop fun with four of their favourite Disney stories.

There will be the high-speed stunts of Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's *Cars*, who will race across the ice like never before.

Fans can dive into adventure with Ariel in *The Little Mermaid's* enchanted undersea kingdom.

The toys are back in town as Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the Toy Story gang escape from the rambunctious tots of Sunnyside Daycare in their most daring adventure ever.

And fans can also enter the wintry world of Arendelle with

sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's *Frozen*, as they learn that true love comes from within.

For tickets visit www.disneyonice.com or call the hotline on 0844 338 0338.

Performance Director for Disney on Ice, former Olympian Jackie Soames, is particularly happy that the world tour is coming to Birmingham as she hails from nearby Nuneaton. She embarked on her remarkable career, both solo and in pairs with John Jenkins, after learning to skate at Solihull Ice Rink at the age of eight.

Q.U.B.E. 2 is top of the blocks puzzler

You don't have to be familiar with the original to enjoy *Q.U.B.E. 2*, *Toxic Games'* immersive first person puzzle trek through a futuristic maze of monolith blocks. As Commander Emma Sutcliffe you move blocks and explore as a stranded protagonist with only a colleague on a communicator for help. Exploring and manipulating the environment poses challenges. There is a growing sense of unease. This addictive game is available for Xbox One, Playstation 4 and PC.



Magic night ahead for indie rock fans

GIG highlights include tonight's (Thursday's) sold out show by The Magic Gang at Birmingham's O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth. Check out their slacker pop anthems on their just released debut album. Also tonight, singer, songwriter and frontman of rock band Idlewild, Roddy Woomble, has a gig at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath. He won acclaim for latest solo album *The Deluder* and will also be playing some Idlewild songs. Support from Tom Joshua. The Wombats will be playing tracks from fourth album *Beautiful People Will Ruin Your Life* at the O2 Institute tomorrow night, whilst rising star singer-songwriter Tom Walker plays the venue's other room. Claire Hastings, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, is with Aidan Moodie at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Saturday.

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All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe

CHOICE



Picasso

Picasso's Last Stand (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary telling the story of the last decade of the great artist's life, through the memories of family, close friends and the people he allowed into his world in the 1960s. As his health declined in these final years, Picasso faced damaging criticism of his work for the first time, and intimate details about his bohemian lifestyle were revealed. Yet, in the midst of disaster, he rediscovered his revolutionary spirit with a creative surge that produced some of his most sexually frank and comic work.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** BBC News: Weather. **12.45** Film: The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! (2012) Animated comedy, with the voice of Hugh Grant. **2.05** Gymnastics: World Cup Highlights. **3.50** The Boat Race. Live coverage of the men's and women's University Boat Races.

6.15 **Doodlebugs.** Sketch show in which inanimate objects share their thoughts on the world. With the voices of Kayvan Novak, Cardinal Burns, Morgana, Robinson and Spencer Jones.

6.30 **BBC News.**

6.40 **Regional Programme.**

6.45 **Pointless Celebrities.** A special Grange Hill version of the quiz, featuring Todd Carly, Alison Bettles, Paula Ann Bland, Lee MacDonald, Erkan Mustafa, Michelle Gayle, Francesca Martinez and Stuart Organ.

7.40 **Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.20 **Casualty.** The day of Robyn and Glen's wedding arrives, but the groom has a seizure while getting ready at the hotel. Rash treats a woman suffering from anxiety after the death of her fiancée.

9.10 **Troy: Fall of a City.** The Trojan royal family receive a message from the gods and embark on a daring raid with their newfound allies. Achilles is provoked into returning to battle Hector, while Helen's situation remains precarious. The sixth episode of David Farr's Ancient Greek historical drama based on the Trojan War and the love affair between Paris and Helen, starring Tom Weston-Jones, Louis Hunter, Jonas Armstrong, Bella Dayne, David Threlfall, Johnny Harris, David Gyasi, Lemogang Tsipa, Chloe Pirrie and Joseph Mawle.

10.10 **BBC News:** Weather: National Lottery Update.

10.30 **Film: Guardians of the Galaxy.** (2014) A band of escapees from a prison space station battles an alien warlord for possession of a powerful artefact. Sci-fi adventure, starring Chris Pratt.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Designers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me. (R) **11.00** Famously Unfit for Sport Relief. (R) **12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.30** Planet Earth. (R) **2.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **3.30** The Repair Shop. (R) **4.00** The Secret Helpers. (R) **5.00** Big Cats About the House. (R)

6.00 **Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall celebrates volunteers who help wildlife in the West Country, meeting a woman who has transformed her home into a hedgehog hospital. Last in the series.

7.00 **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby.** Giles Coren and Monica Galletti work in Ireland's Ashford Castle, dating back to 1228. Despite its rollercoaster ride through the ages Ashford has sustained strong community ties. (R)

8.00 **David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** The evolutionary documentary concludes, as David Attenborough profiles the Siamese fighting fish and the kangaroo, which has a kick so strong it can kill. Last in the series.

8.30 **Dad's Army.** The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R)

9.00 **Picasso's Last Stand.** Documentary telling the story of the last decade of the great artist's life, through the memories of family, close friends and the people he allowed into his world in the 1960s.

10.00 **Film: A Late Quartet.** (2012) A member of a string quartet announces his retirement, bringing up personal conflicts among the other musicians. Drama, with Christopher Walken and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

11.40 **Film: Safe Haven.** (2013) A woman trying to make a fresh start in a coastal town realises she must confront the dark past she is running from. Romantic drama, with Julianne Hough.

2.30 (BST) Civilisations. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Dancing on Ice – The Final. (R) **2.30** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather.

6.20 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a woman being attacked by a remote-controlled plane and a man hit by a giant trampoline during a hurricane.

7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Comedian Alan Carr joins the fun as this week's guest announcer, while the Georgie duo go up against cast members from Coronation Street in the return of Make 'Em Laugh. Plus, Stephen Mulhern hits the streets of Warrington in the latest edition of In for a Penny, a lucky audience member gets the chance to Win the Ads, and Sofa Watch sees more Places on the Plane up for grabs.

8.30 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis presents the second of the knockout shows as the remaining acts sing for a place in next week's semi-final. Coaches Will.I.am, Tom Jones, Olly Murs and reigning champion Jennifer Hudson can pick only one act from their teams to progress in the competition, so there are some tough decisions to make. Helping them are R'n'B star Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas, Australian pop queen Kylie Minogue, 2006 winner of The X Factor Leona Lewis and The Voice UK's reigning champion, Mo'Nique.

10.30 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.45 **Film: Fast & Furious 5.** (2011)

2.00 (BST) Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Mobil 1: The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.50** Car SOS. **3.50** Coast vs Country. (R) **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **5.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** The actress travels around the UK coast by train, beginning by boarding the famous Jacobite steam train for a trip along Scotland's West Highland Railway, famously featured in the Harry Potter movies. Along the way, Julie learns about herring gutting and blowing up railway lines, and meets a traditional Scottish storyteller on the Isle of Skye. (R)

8.00 **Britain at Low Tide.** Tori Herridge uncovers the story behind a dramatic night in 1976 when fishing trawler the Admiral Von Tromp went wildly off course in the North Sea, after setting off in Scarborough and running aground in Whitby, North Yorkshire, with the wreckage still visible on the shores of Saltwick Bay to this day. The massive remains of a First World War fort lead Tori to tales of love in the East Yorkshire hamlet of Kilssea, and she learns the strange fate of two ships that were built in Hull but ended up on top of a mountain in Peru.

9.00 **Film: Everest.** (2015) Premiere. Two expeditions set out to climb to the summit of the world's highest mountain. Both parties of mountaineers get caught in one of the fiercest snowstorms ever recorded, and face a desperate struggle to survive against the elements. Fact-based adventure, starring Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, Jake Gyllenhaal and Keira Knightley.

11.20 **Film: Predator 2.** (1990) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.

2.20 (BST) Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** Coast vs Country. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union. Saracens v Harlequins (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.10 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy chase a £16,000 debt run up by a coach company and Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession. (R)

7.00 **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** Jane cruises around Cuba aboard the Celestial Crystal, starting and ending in Havana, sampling the relatively new tourist industry of the Caribbean basin. (R)

7.55 **5 News Weekend.**

8.00 **Inside Windsor Castle.** Documentary marking the centenary of the Windsor dynasty by examining the history of the royal residence over the past 80 years, looking at the tragedies and triumphs that have had an impact on the Queen and her family. The first edition reflects on the events of the past 25 years, including the fire in November 1992 that started in the private chapel and came at the end of a terrible year for the royals, with marital troubles hitting the Queen's three elder children. (R)

9.00 **King Tut's Treasure Secrets.** New series. Documentary exploring the thousands of items found with the great Egyptian pharaoh when his tomb was first uncovered.

9.55 **King Tut's Tomb: The Hidden Chamber.** Documentary examining recent discoveries made in the famous burial chamber, which archaeologists now believe may also be the resting place of Queen Nefertiti. (R)

10.50 **Secrets of the Valley of the Kings.** An exploration of the Valley of the Kings, the royal necropolis of the pharaohs and the world's most famous royal burial ground. (R)

11.40 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film:** (BST) Due Date. (2010) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America **8.00** The Silk Road **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.30** Blues at the BBC **12.30** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **2.30** (BST) Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.30** The Silk Road **4.30** Secret Knowledge: Hidden Jewels of the Cheapside Hoard **5.00** Close

ITV2

11.20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.50** You've Been Framed! Funniest 100 **1.55** Film: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **3.40** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.45** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.50** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.35** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **2.05** (BST) American Dad! **2.30** Action Team

ITV3

12.30 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.40** Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **2.55** (BST) ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.25 Monster Carp **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster. **4.00** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker: Players Championship. **11.00** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **2.45** (BST) ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 **Film:** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.05** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** Young Sheldon **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: 2 Guns (2013) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Five Star Hotel **2.15** (BST) Five Star Hotel **3.20** The Inbetweeners **3.45** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Anastasia (1997) **1.00** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **2.50** The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **4.40** Carry On Cabby (1963) **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** American Ultra (2015) **10.50** Zombieland (2009) **12.30** Nymphomaniac: Volume II (2013) **4.00** (BST) Close

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CHOICE



Ewan and Colin McGregor

RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin McGregor (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The actor and his former pilot brother present a celebration of the Royal Air Force's centenary, taking to the skies in iconic planes from the First World War to the present day. They also meet service personnel from throughout the RAF's history, including a veteran of the Battle of Britain, former female members of the Air Transport Auxiliary, crew members who had the responsibility of dropping the atom bomb, modern-day Typhoon fighter crews, and the last pilot to be involved in a dogfight.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** MasterChef. (R) **1.30** MasterChef. (R) **2.30** MasterChef. (R) **3.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Sport Relief 2018: The Best Bits.
6.05 **BBC News.**
6.20 **Regional Programme.**
6.30 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker reports on a conservation project in Shropshire to prevent the county's rivers being polluted by iron ore brought to the surface by the area's long history of mining. Ellie Harrison visits a pop-up restaurant using only locally sourced ingredients and goes searching for pine martens. Steve Brown meets a glass sculptor, and Tom Heap reports on declining numbers of British hedgehogs.
7.30 **Hold the Sunset.** Phil fears he will lose Edith to Bob, and that a face from his past may make an unwelcome reappearance. Last in the series.
8.00 **MasterChef.** John Torode and Gregg Wallace present the first of two programmes in which eight of the 16 cooks to make it through the heats must prepare one of their favourite dishes.
8.30 **RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin McGregor.** The actor and his former pilot brother present a celebration of the Royal Air Force's centenary, taking to the skies in iconic planes from the First World War to the present day. They also meet service personnel from throughout the RAF's history, including a veteran of the Battle of Britain, former female members of the Air Transport Auxiliary, crew members who had the responsibility of dropping the atom bomb, modern-day Typhoon fighter crews, and the last pilot to be involved in a dogfight.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Regional Programme.**
10.30 **Film: War of the Worlds.** (2005) A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise.
12.15 The Women's Football Show.
12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Coast. (R) **7.20** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.05** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.50** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.20** Film: Bringing Up Baby. (1938) Screwball comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **3.00** Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago. (R) **4.00** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **5.00** Film: Real Steel. (2011) Sci-fi drama, starring Hugh Jackman.
7.00 **Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall.** The naturalist travels down the Balien River in New Guinea from its source to the sea, hoping to encounter the ancient tribes and dangerous wildlife that live along its banks and in the surrounding jungle. He begins his journey inland at Lake Habbema, and braves some of the world's fiercest white water rapids. Along the way, he stays in a village belonging to the Dani tribe and ventures into some previously unexplored caves. (R)
8.00 **Top Gear.** Matt LeBlanc test drives the Ferrari 812 Superfast, while Rory Reid travels to the US in search of a muscle car that is illegal in Europe. With guest Vicky McClure (Line of Duty).
9.00 **Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives.** The presenter meets families and friends of people who died in the Grenfell fire, to gain an understanding of the disaster's victims as people and as members of a community.
10.00 **Mock the Week.** James Acaster, Angela Barnes, Kerry Goddman, Nish Kumar and Glenn Moore join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
10.30 **Top Gear: Extra Gear.** Chris Harris takes the new Porsche GT3 for a spin on the track, while motoring journalist Alex Kersten and racing engineer Mark Wynne chat about the future of the V12 engine.
10.55 **Film: Life of Crime.** (2013) Two criminals kidnap the wife of a corrupt real-estate tycoon, only to discover he is not willing to pay their ransom demand. Comedy, with Jennifer Aniston.
12.30 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled!: 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Voice UK. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** (R)
6.30 **ITV News: Weather.**
6.45 **Regional Programme; Weather.**
7.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity edition of the game show, asking contestants Jonathan Ross, Tess Daly and Linda Robson to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clips. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000 for the charity of their choice.
8.00 **The Durrells.** Louisa and Larry receive the devastating news that Aunt Hermione has died in her sleep. As the family make arrangements to have her body sent back to England, Margo gets to work on organising a memorial service. Leslie decides that he wants to be with Dionisia, and prepares to let Daphne down gently - however, it turns out that she is pregnant with his child, and her father is determined that they must get married as soon as possible. Gerry becomes fascinated by a wall in the back garden that is covered in insects.
9.00 **The Good Karma Hospital.** Lydia tries to regain the trust of a former patient.
10.00 **ITV News: Sunday.**
10.20 **Peston on Sunday.** (R)
11.20 **Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin.** (2001)
1.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Marcella. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Fraser. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Race of Champions 2018. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **5.15** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Homes by the Med.** Charlie Luxton explores Croatia's Dalmatian coast and islands, and visits a gleaming white property that cascades down the side of a cliff on the island of Brac. Previously shown on More4.
8.00 **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own - building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform.
9.00 **Homeland.** Saul calls an old friend, while Wellington has a problem and Carrie enjoys a win. Starring Claire Danes.
10.15 **8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr returns with the comedy version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with Jon Richardson and James Acaster teaming up against Lee Mack and Sarah Millican. (R)
11.10 **Film: Rush.** (2013) Formula One racers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry over the course of the 1976 championship. Fact-based drama, with Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl.
1.25 The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. Last in the series. (R) **2.20** The Question Jury. Tension mounts and loyalties are put to the test as two of the jurors go head to head in a battle to win the money. (R) **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Action from bouts around the world. **3.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.40** Coast vs Country. Sara Damerji and Kerr Drummond help Tony and Michelle, who have lived in Oxfordshire for 10 years and are keen to sample a more relaxed pace of life in Dorset. (R) **5.35** Streetmate. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.25** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.30** Moby. (R) **6.35** Simon. (R) **6.40** Simon. (R) **6.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.05** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.50** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors: Dog Squad Special. (R) **12.20** Film: The Illusionist. (2006) Mystery thriller, starring Edward Norton. **2.25** Film: The Man in the Iron Mask. (1998) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **4.45** Film: A Knight's Tale. (2001) Medieval comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger. **5.45** 5:45 Update. (R) **5.50** Film: A Knight's Tale. (2001) Concluded.
7.15 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller to one of his suppliers, and chase up more than £5,000 owed by a tenant to her former landlord for rent arrears. (R)
8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents chase more than £1,700 in unpaid parking fines in south-east London, but struggle to pinpoint the debtor. Meanwhile, officers in north Wales try to recover the £2,000 owed by a tradesman to a former employer, and in Kent agents chase £8,000 owed by a jewellery shop to two former employees. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Film: The Bodyguard.** (1992) A famous singer subjected to death threats by an obsessive fan is persuaded to hire a former secret service agent as her bodyguard, but neither of them realise the effect they are about to have on each other's lives. Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner.
10.00 **5 News Update.**
10.05 **Film: The Bodyguard.** (1992) Concluded.
11.35 **Film: Whitney Houston: A Tragically Love.** (2015)
1.20 Whitney Houston: Her Greatest Hits. (R) **2.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00** Capability Brown's Unfinished Garden **10.00** The Banker's Guide to Art **11.30** The Secret Life of Children's Books **12.00** The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Fabergé **1.00** Moominland Tales: The Life of Tove Jansson **2.00** Capability Brown's Unfinished Garden **3.00** And Then There Were None **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.10 You've Been Framed!: Top 100 Animals **1.10** The Voice UK **3.05** Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Unsung Heroes **4.10** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015)
5.10 FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **5.55** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: Happy Feet Two (2011) **8.00** Film: Skyfall (2012) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Skyfall (2012) **1.10** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Ibiza Weekender **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.55 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Film: Brief Encounter (1945) **3.40** Film: The Theory of Everything (2014) **6.00** Vera **8.00** The Cruise **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00** Murder on the Home Front **12.05** Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982) **2.25** Blue Murder **3.40** Rising Damp **4.05** Road to Avonlea **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
12.45 Live Snooker: Players Championship. The opening session of the final from Venue Cymru, Llandudno. **5.15** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker: Players Championship. **11.15** Film: Senna (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Senna (2010) **1.15** It's Not Rocket Science **2.30** Fishing Allstars **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Goldbergs **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** Film: Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **1.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **3.35** Hugo (2011) **6.05** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **9.00** Oblivion (2013) **11.25** Child 44 (2015) **2.05** Submarine (2010) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Kidnapped: Desperate Hours, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An American wife's world is turned upside down when her husband, the son of a Mexican newspaper publisher, is kidnapped. Drama, starring Teri Polo, Esai Morales and Nicholas Gonzalez. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2011)

TUESDAY

Mr & Mrs Smith, Channel 5, 10pm
An outwardly bored suburban couple lead double lives as professional assassins, both unaware of their partner's secret. When they are hired to kill each other, the deadly situation puts some much-needed excitement back into their stale relationship. Comedy adventure, starring Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn and Adam Brody. (2005)

WEDNESDAY

Under Siege, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey and Tommy Lee Jones. (1992)



Fast & Furious, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY

Buried Secrets, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Former cop Sarah Winters publishes her first novel, and finds herself on the wrong side of the law when her book's plot seems to mirror an all-too-real murder case. Thriller, starring Sarah Carter. (2014)

FRIDAY

Fast & Furious 7, ITV, 9pm
Premiere. After defeating Owen Shaw and his crew and securing amnesty for their past crimes, Dom, Brian and the rest of the team return home to live normal lives again. However Shaw's older brother Deckard - a rogue special forces assassin vows revenge on Dom, who he holds responsible for leaving Owen in a coma. Action thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Jason Statham and Paul Walker in his last film role. (2015)

Famous faces show their naked ambition for a good cause

It takes some cojones to back a film, no matter how good the script is. In 1996, the idea of unemployed Sheffield blokes stripping on stage sounded like a bad idea for a TV one-off, let alone a big screen comedy.

But great films are never born without risk, and by the time it saw the light of day a year later, The Full Monty went from indie curio to major blockbuster.

While other Brit flicks of 1997, like Lawn Dogs and Face, vanished with the skill of a stealth fighter, The Full Monty became a phenomenon.

The VHS copies (and later DVDs) sold out in no time; worthy yet jobbing actors like Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy and Robert Carlyle were wooed by Hollywood, and aside from Anne Dudley landing an Oscar for her inspired score, the film was turned into a successful stage show.

Last summer, the brand was also adapted for a hit ITV spectacular in which famous faces stripped off to raise awareness of men's cancers.

Now it's back for a new full-frontal extravaganza, and this time it's live from Sheffield, the home of the original movie.

Ashley Banjo and Alexander Armstrong will be putting together a bigger and bolder show, and they are joined by TV presenter Jeff Brazier; former Rugby International star Ugo Monye and TOWIE veteran James Argent.

And there's a load more talent joining them, from the Wanted's Tom Parker, ex-footballer John Hartson, and chef Ainsley Harriot to former EastEnder John Partridge.

They will share their personal stories and learn how to shed their iconic security guard uniforms to stir up a storm on stage in the Steel City. Hopefully they will also inspire more men to make vital checks that could save lives.

"Last year's show was a major success, particularly given it was unknown territory," explains Alexander. "But now we want to see if we can aim for an even better performance to grab people's

attention again for this cause.

"Hopefully, we're in for even more fun as we take another bunch of blokes and turn them into show stoppers capable of turning the audience into a frenzy."

Ashley adds: "After the amazing time we had last year, I can't wait to get the chance to teach the 2018 intake how to forget their inhibitions and put on an unforgettable show to raise awareness for this incredibly important issue that really can save lives."

A day after this show airs, some familiar faces will be popping up in another ITV special, The Real Full Monty: Ladies' Night.

Presenters Coleen Nolan and Sarah-Jane Crawford, and actresses Helen Lederer and Ruth Madoc are determined to show the boys how it's done and raise awareness of breast cancer.

They are joined by broadcaster Victoria Derbyshire; Emmerdale's Sally Dexter; reality star Megan McKenna and former Liberty X singer Michelle Heaton.



The Real Full Monty: Live, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Thrifty Ways to - Summer Holiday Channel 4, 8.30pm
Katie Piper presents a programme giving viewers hot tips on how to shop better for a fraction of the usual price, offering the inside track on ways to get more bang for your buck. She is joined by travel industry expert Amar Latif to demonstrate how to be thrifty about booking a summer holiday - be it family time in Tenerife or a city break in Bath or tips, as well as tricks on how to get cut prices in Orlando. The show offers handy money saving hacks and taps into local knowledge to access the best deals.

TUESDAY
Live International Football ITV, 7.30pm
England v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch is joined by Lee Dixon, Ian Wright and Slaven Bilic to present coverage of the friendly match from Wembley Stadium, as England continue their preparations for the 2018 World Cup. With the tournament in Russia only a few months away, Gareth Southgate will see this encounter as an ideal opportunity to assess some of the members in his squad, and potentially play one or two players who have previously been on the fringe of contention, but looking to force their way into his plans.

Come Home BBC1, 9pm
Award-winning screenwriter Danny Brocklehurst is one of the brains behind this three-part family drama. Set in Northern Ireland, it focuses on mother Marie (Paula Malcomson), who decides to walk out on husband Greg (Christopher Eccleston), and their three children. The first episode is told from Greg's perspective, and follows him and their kids as they struggle to comprehend their mother's actions. While Greg juggles work at Farrell Motors, raising his children and coping with the trials and tribulations of dating again, he tries to keep a sense of normality. However, it remains to be seen whether he will be able to move on when he's trapped in the past. With the aid of multiple timeframes, viewpoints and flashbacks, Greg and Marie's story should be THE talking point for many around the UK.

WEDNESDAY
The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story BBC2, 9pm
The fact-based US crime drama continues. Andrew Cunanan

invites himself to stay in Minneapolis with friends David Madson and Jeff Trail. Although Jeff has managed to build a new life for himself in the city, he is still troubled by the ending of his US Navy career back in 1995. Meanwhile, Gianni Versace opens up about his relationship with his partner Antonio to a magazine, against the advice of Donatella. Starring Darren Criss, Cody Fern, Finn Wittrock, Edgar Ramirez, Ricky Martin and Penelope Cruz.

THURSDAY
The Real Full Monty: Ladies' Night ITV, 9pm
Following the success of last year's The Real Full Monty - and last night's follow up - it's the turn of a group of female celebrities to bare all in the name of cancer awareness. However, they won't just be looking to the men and the hit film The Full Monty for inspiration, as the programme also marks 20 years since the escalator girls' of the

Rylstone and District WI posed for their iconic nude photos. The ladies taking part are TV presenter Coleen Nolan, broadcaster Victoria Derbyshire, Emmerdale actress Sally Dexter, reality TV star Megan McKenna, former Liberty X singer Michelle Heaton, actress Helen Lederer, TV legend Ruth Madoc and presenter Sarah-Jane Crawford, and the issue of breast cancer awareness is close to all their hearts. But will that be enough to get them over their body issues and inhibitions as they prepare to put on a show?

FRIDAY
Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson Channel 5, 8pm
New series. The actor visits York Minster, which over the past 800 years, has been a backdrop to some of the most dramatic events in British history. It houses more than half of all the world's medieval glass, including the Rose Window, commissioned by Henry VIII, and the East Window, the largest stained glass window in the world. A succession of outspoken bishops of York have defied Nazis, married kings and queens, and more recently championed equality with Archbishop John Sentamu, the country's first black bishop, consecrating the world's first female bishop, Libby Lane, in 2014.



Come Home, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

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No.472

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

14	8	20	1			12				14	26	9	12
	10				26	21	8	20	11		22		16
21	6	21	20	18			14		10	25	20	11	15
	16			6			26		3		26		26
	17	6	23	1	15	16	5	15			12	10	12
21					19		12				10		20
26	11	13	10	20	19		7	8	10	16	6	17	
19		20				17			15				15
10	21	12		12	6	12	10	16	20	26	18		
21		12		4		4		23				15	
12	14	15	26	2		18		26	18	20	26	17	
20		16			15	24	6	26	18			16	
7	26	17	2			17				13	6	19	2

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	H	G	D	N	X	R	U	M	K	C	W	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	S	I	Q	O	Z	E	V	A	T	L	B	Y

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Unsavoury scoundrel (3,3)
4. This singer, given a chance, could win a fortune (6)
9. A job done for nothing? (9,4)
10. Listens out for recruits (7)
11. Superstitious symbol of many following a gambling system (5)
12. Am given little scope (5)
14. Bird doctor goes round to object (5)
18. Shape altered a great deal (5)
19. A bone from Munster (7)
21. Having the wisdom not to get excited (13)
22. What water pipes should be kept behind? (6)
23. Credit is twice provided in an emergency (6)

Down

1. Strike for which the catering staff is responsible (6)
2. Ambiguous combination of nobleman and guide (6,7)
3. Entrances groups of spectators (5)
5. It may be worn as a favour (7)
6. What a metalworker may say when they go wrong? (5,8)
7. I smoke a strange mixture, being a northerner (6)
8. A case in point? Finish with just the opposite (5)
13. Waiting to be stocked (2,5)
15. The Spanish man comes first in church (6)
16. Legally prevent poets being translated (5)
17. Yet they may form a large part of the weekly wash (6)
20. Three mixed the upper air (5)

1	14
2	15
3	16 R
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10 O	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
					8						
9											
10								11			
	12			13			14				
15						16					17
18						19		20			
21											
22						23					

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Far off (6)
4. Self-possession (6)
9. Unselfish (13)
10. Disease (7)
11. Scorch (5)
12. Pungent (5)
14. Viper (5)
18. Cordage (5)
19. Plant (7)
21. On sale, cheaply (5,3,1,4)
22. Signify (6)
23. Pure (6)

Down

1. Diminish (6)
2. Mistaken idea (13)
3. Taut (5)
4. Delighted (7)
6. In impatient suspense (2,11)
7. Pester (6)
8. Postpone (5)
13. Visible (2,5)
15. Cold (6)
16. Pitch (5)
17. Shoe (6)
20. Confound (5)

		2			8		5	
	9		2	6		3		
		6			5	7		
7	4				2	8		
3			4		1			5
		5	6				4	1
		8	3			5		
9		7			6		3	2
	2			5				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

8	6	3	2	1	4	7	9
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	3
9	7	5	6	8	3	4	2
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4
6	8	7	3	4	2	1	5
2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6
4	5	8	7	3	9	2	1
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8
3	9	6	8	2	1	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Health; 2 Staff; 8 Acute; 9 Aid; 10 Distended; 11 Panama; 12 Dangle; 15 Reconcite; 17 Yes; 18 Noise; 19 Timed; 21 Consolidates. Down: 1 Hair apparent; 2 Tea; 3 Refuse; 4 Stalemate; 5 Round; 6 Heedlessness; 7 Sedan; 10 Domineers; 13 Guede; 14 Pistol; 16 Cairo; 20 Mad.
 QUICK - Across: 1 San Francisco; 7 After; 8 Train; 9 Tie; 10 Fragrance; 11 Nudist; 12 Reform; 15 Sepulchre; 17 Inn; 18 Arena; 19 Ocean; 21 Here and there. Down: 1 Shooting star; 2 Water; 3 Breeze; 4 Breeze; 5 Breeze; 6 Interminable; 7 Ahead; 10 Fusillade; 13 Orion; 14 Thrown; 16 Piece; 20 Fat.

1. Whose novel *Brideshead Revisited* was published in 1945?
2. On which Hebridean island is Fingal's Cave?
3. Which A-Team star died in 1994?
4. Which British coin was discontinued in 1961?
5. Which ceremonial office is held by the Lordship of Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire?

6. Who wrote the classic jazz number Round Midnight?
7. What is the capital of Croatia?
8. Who made his US film debut as Christ in The Greatest Story Ever Told?
9. Which Indian state's name is Sanskrit for 'five rivers'?
10. Who is the host of University Challenge?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 7; 2 La Paz; 3 Utah; 4 Woolsack;
5 Kigali; 6 Opium; 7 Sir Christopher Wren;
8 Volga; 9 Vulcan; 10 Yukon.

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

239211
6539689
272486

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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No Lye-ing, this was perfect night out

WE have a wonderful afternoon and evening. We had to – because it was by order of the Peaky Blinders!

Having booked an evening meal at the Windsor Castle Inn in Lye we thought we'd try somewhere already renowned for its good food. And, perhaps just as importantly, a place that brewed its own award-winning beer on site and had a gin emporium.

The Saturday just happened to clash with one of Sadler's now famous Peaky Blinders-themed days and we were lucky to have stumbled across it. The only Peaky-style clothing I own is a Christmas T-shirt, which my wife, Kelly, banned me from wearing (it was approaching spring after all) so we went as we were.

QUAINT

However, many had made the effort and it really was a set back in time when we enjoyed a few meal drinks in Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, just behind Lye Railway Station, with live music and draft real ales.

We then made our way to the Windsor Castle Inn, a five-minute walk, for our meal. The Windsor is a nice, quaint pub that always serves at least 10 of its own real ales.

The brewery started in 1900, founded by Nathaniel Sadler, the great, great grandfather to Emily and Chris Sadler. It supplied its 12-tied public houses, the most famous being The Windsor Castle, the original brewery tap house, first based in Oldbury.

Now in Lye, near Stourbridge, the brewery has once again become a thriving family-run microbrewery, owned by Chris Sadler, supplying public houses and supermarkets with Sadler's cask and bottled ales throughout the Midlands and country. And there were plenty of groups enjoying brewery tours too – so if anyone fancies soaking up some of the pub's rich

Tuck into the crab and scallop dish



Idea for pub grub – the Windsor Castle Inn



history something like that would be worth a punt. The 1920-inspired Dr Hardwicke's Gin Emporium, which opened in the summer, also boasts more than 35 spirits.

There was a little drama when we arrived as there had been a mix-up with our booking – and we didn't exist according to their records. But after producing the email apologies were made and they found us a table for two. We were even offered a free round of drinks.

As it was Peaky-themed night the pub was busy, so if you're thinking of a romantic or quiet evening for two, it's perhaps best to avoid such an evening. However, we

loved the atmosphere and were treated superbly by the staff, who have also won awards for their service.

So it was finally time to order some starters and I have to say we guessed right when we decided to share one because it was more than ample. We opted for the crab and scallop thermidor, which came with mixed leaves and homemade bread. Each homemade meal comes with a recommendation of the perfect pint of craft beer to accompany the food. For me, fish is always the number one option and luckily the Windsor Castle Inn has its fish delivered fresh from the markets every

morning. The loin of cod, served with a seafood ragout, seasonal vegetables and a choice of dauphinoise or hand-cut chips stole the show.

Kelly went for the pork medley, a trio of braised pork belly, pork and leek sausage, and grilled pork chop on a bed of creamy mashed potato served with black pudding, cider jus and seasonal vegetables. 'Amazing' was how she described it.

So if you enjoy real ales, a selection of gins and some lovely homemade food, it's worth giving The Windsor Castle Inn a try.

JAMES DRIVER-FISHER

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Departing Saturday 26 May
from Halesowen & Stourbridge

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- ✓ Return coach travel
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Departing Monday 28 May
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights DBB at the Coppice Hotel, Torquay
- ✓ Entertainment some nights
- ✓ Cruise on the River Exe
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

27

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 22, 2018

Detached family home enjoys a cul-de-sac location

A detached family home, 7 Montpellier Gardens, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property under the hammer through the online modern method of auction, for cash only.

A modern property, it lies on the popular Milking Bank Estate in a cul-de-sac location.

Having four good-sized bedrooms, with an en-suite to bedroom one, this family home has a guide price of £222,000 with Trinity Property.

Its accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms, a good-sized modern kitchen, a downstairs WC, a landing and airing cupboard, four good-sized bedrooms, an en-suite to bedroom one, a family bathroom, a double garage and driveway.

In more detail this property is built to an attractive modern design in red brick, having an attached double garage. The frontage includes a tarmacadam driveway to the double garage flanked by mature lawns and a tree.

This home is decorated in neutral shades throughout. The lounge has a bow window to the front and an Adam-style fireplace, a dado rail and fitted wall lights. The dining room/sitting room has full-length sliding patio doors opening to the rear garden.

Being a good size, the modern kitchen has cream fronted units with gold-effect handles, marble-effect working surfaces and splash-back tiling, plus wood-effect laminate flooring. All the bedrooms are carpeted, as is the lounge and dining room/sitting room.

The downstairs WC has splash-back tiling behind the pedestal wash hand basin.

The master bedroom has a fully tiled en-suite shower room with a pink ceramic WC and pedestal wash hand basin and a shower cubicle. Again being fully tiled, the family bathroom has a grey three-piece suite of a bath, WC and pedestal wash hand basin, a shower over the bath and a shower screen.

The rear garden features a block paved terrace, ideal for summer entertaining, mature lawn and shrub borders, mature trees and a feature brick circular pond.

DUDLEY £222,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property

TEL: 01384 213395

EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net



KEY FEATURES

Auction property

Detached family home

4 good-sized bedrooms

En-suite to bedroom one

Double garage & driveway



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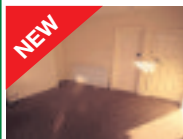
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**01384
213395**

21 Wolverhampton Street,
Dudley, West Midlands,
DY1 1DB

e: dudley@trinityproperty.net

Tividale Elm Terrace



-- Two Bedroom Semi Detached house --
Good Sized Lounge -- Good Sized Kitchen
and diner -- Drive to front -- EPC D -- Two double
bedrooms -- House Bathroom with separate
shower cubicle & bath with WC upstairs --
MUST BE VIEWED -- NO UPWARD CHAIN --
£119,000

Dudley Dingle close



-- Three bedroom semi-detached home -- Two
reception rooms, fitted kitchen -- Situated just
off the Oakham Road -- House Bathroom with
separate shower cubicle & bath with WC upstairs
-- Three Beds, 2 double and 1 single -- EPC D --
Garden and small patio to rear -- Garage & drive-
way to the front -- MUST BE VIEWED --
£167,500

DUDLEY Hawkesley Road



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom semi-detached family
home. The property is situated in a cul-de-sac location, having a
paved area to the front of the property, the front porch opens
into the Lounge with fitted kitchen off, having a square arch to
the dining room. From the first floor landing there are doors to
two double bedrooms and the house bathroom with shower
over the bath. Outside to the rear there is a patio area leading to
the garden with side access to the front. NO UPWARD CHAIN.
£120,000

Bilston Bay Avenue



-- A mid terraced four bed town house -- Modern,
spacious property -- Two lounges, fitted dining
kitchen -- Accommodation over three floors -- Two
en-suites, bath/WC, downstairs WC -- EPC C --
Four good sized bedrooms -- Drive to front, rear
garden with shed -- Viewing recommended!! --
£175,000

MILKING BANK, DUDLEY Montpellier Gardens



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of
Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auc-
tion. GUIDE PRICE £222,000. CASH ONLY. FOUR BED-
ROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME. DOUBLE GARAGE
AND DRIVE. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D

GUIDE PRICE £222,000

NETHERTON Blackbrook Road



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of
Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auc-
tion. GUIDE PRICE £134,100 TWO BED-
ROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW. WITH VIEWS TO
THE FRONT, NO UPWARD CHAIN, PROPERTY VIEW-
INGS VIA AGENT.

GUIDE PRICE £136,000

Dudley Harley Grange



-- One bed ground floor apartment --
Lounge, modern fitted kitchen -- Double
bedroom -- Modern Bathroom/WC -- Off
Road Parking -- EPC D -- Long lease &
Low service charges -- MUST BE VIEWED
-- NO UPWARD CHAIN --
£62,500

NETHERTON Halesowen Road



-- A mid terraced commercial Building --
Currently in use of as a doctors surgery -- Freehold block -- NO
UPWARD CHAIN -- EPC -- TBC -- Located in the centre of Netherton
-- Off Road Parking to rear -- MUST
BE VIEWED -- Ideal conversion op-
portunity subject to planning --
£120,000

TIPTON Thunderbolt Way



-- A third (top) floor 2 bed apartment --
Modern, neutral decor throughout --
Large Lounge with 2 Juliet balcon-
ies -- Modern Fitted Kitchen/diner
-- EPC C -- Two Bedrooms (1 dou-
ble, 1 single) -- Bathroom/WC with
shower over bath -- NO UPWARD
CHAIN -- MUST BE VIEWED --
£82,500

Dudley St James Road



A splendid, detached family home on the popular St James's Road, within the catchment area for Castle High
School and walking distance from Dudley Town Centre. With off road parking and garage to the front, gardens
to front and rear, this amazing property must be viewed to be appreciated. Internally, the entrance porch leads
to an entrance hall with stairs to the first floor, and further to the lounge/dining room and breakfast kitchen. There
is a utility room with internal access to the garage, and a downstairs WC. Upstairs, the first floor landing leads to
two double bedrooms (master with folding ladder to the boarded loft room with velux windows to the rear) and a
further single bedroom. The house bathroom has a separate shower cubicle with mixer shower, a whirlpool bath
and WC. To the rear, there is a pleasant decked area with steps (and a spiral staircase) to the terraced garden.
There is a lawned area with trees and shrubs to the rear. Viewing is highly recommended, no upward chain. EPC E

£219,950

DUDLEY Oakham Road



- Three bedroom detached home -
Lounge - Diner, Kitchen and Con-
servatory - Spaciously laid out
Home - Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Refitted House Bathroom - Excellent
Sized Rear Garden - MUST BE VIEWED !!!
- EPC - E -

£320,000

OAKHAM, DUDLEY Dingle Close



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of
Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auc-
tion. GUIDE PRICE £210,000 FIVE BEDROOM
SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY. WITH
OFF ROAD PARK TO THE FRONT, NO
UPWARD CHAIN, PROPERTY VIEW-
INGS VIA AGENT.

GUIDE PRICE £210,000

DUDLEY Balviene Way



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of
Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auc-
tion. Guide Price £236,500 plus Reser-
vation Fee. A FIVE BEDROOM
DETACHED FAMILY HOME, AVAILABLE
AS AN INVESTMENT PROPERTY VIEW-
INGS VIA AGENT.

GUIDE PRICE £236,000

SEDGLEY Sandstone Close



-- One bed ground floor
apartment -- Lounge with
feature fire place -- House
Bathroom/WC with shower --
Fitted Kitchen -- Drive to front
-- Good Sized Rear Garden
-- MUST BE VIEWED -- NO
UPWARD CHAIN -- EPC D --
£75,000

DUDLEY St James's Road



-- Three bedroom semi-detached
home -- Two Reception Rooms
-- Dining room & Kitchen -- Bath-
room/WC with wet area/shower
-- EPC: E -- Three Beds (2 dou-
ble and 1 single) -- Gardens to
front and rear -- NO UPWARD
CHAIN -- MUST BE VIEWED --
£199,950

Dudley New Crown Street



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home.
Located in a cul-de-sac location and within walking distance of Dudley Town Centre,
the property offers a driveway to the front and further off road parking nearby and single
garage to the side of the property, once inside there is a downstairs WC, good-sized
lounge and fitted kitchen/diner. On the first floor there are three bedrooms (two doubles,
one single) and a house bathroom/WC with mixer shower over the bath. With a good
sized rear garden with patio area. Property is being sold with a long-term tenant in-situ
currently achieving £575pcm. MUST BE VIEWED, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC TBC

£130,000

Dudley Attingham Drive



For Sale Under The Hammer via the Modern Method of
Auction which is not to be confused with traditional auc-
tion. GUIDE PRICE £61,000 TWO BEDROOM SECOD
FLOOR APARTMENT, LARGE LOUNGE, DINER AND
KITCHEN WITH VIEWS NO UPWARD CHAIN, PROP-
ERTY VIEWINGS VIA AGENT.

GUIDE PRICE £61,000

Dudley Lingwood Hall, St James Road



-- Lower Ground Floor Apartment -- Fitted Kitchen,
patio door to communal gardens/patio area --
Large Lounge, fitted kitchen -- Two double
bedrooms -- EPC: E -- En-suite shower/WC to
bedroom one -- Front and rear entrances -- Allocated
parking off road secure parking -- NO UPWARD
CHAIN --
£114,950

DUDLEY Wrens Nest Road



We are pleased to offer this spacious property - a four
bedroom semi-detached family home in a popular lo-
cation. The property offers a bathroom/WC on the
ground floor, a modern kitchen/diner and two recep-
tion rooms. On the first floor there are four bedrooms
and a shower/WC. With a good-sized rear garden
and off road parking. IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUY-
ERS AND INVESTORS. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC E

£120,000

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**DUDLEY
King Street**

NEW



A FABULOUS LUXURY ONE BEDROOM apartment. The spacious accommodation comprises an L-shaped hallway, a SPACIOUS OPEN PLAN main living area with a defined fitted kitchen area, and a lounge, a HIGH SPECIFICATION HOTEL STYLE fully tiled and fitted bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS. The apartment benefits from an intercom phone entry system, lift and secure parking. Double glazed, electric heating, communal Sky dish. Water is fixed at £20 per month and parking if required is £435 PCM & Fees

**Dudley
Nelson Road**

TO LET



Trinity Property are delighted to announce we have this Spacious & Contemporary Fully Furnished Double Room with its own Ensuite & Kitchenette inc Fridge-Freezer & Microwave Oven, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED Communal Kitchen, Newly Refurbished House near Dudley town centre. Friendly, happy professional housemates, Very Low cost to move straight in! Bills Included! Council Tax, Gas, Water & Communal Electricity - Suitable for Professional Tenants. Sorry No DSS, All Friendly Working Professional Tenants.

£85 P/W & Fees

**NETHERTON
Halesowen Road**

TO LET



A one bedroom ground floor flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen. kitchen includes cooker. Walk in shower & separate toilet/sink. One double bedroom. Economy Double glazing. 7 storage heaters. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS. EPC F

£340 PCM & FEES

**Brierley Hill
Bell Street**

TO LET



This apartment is a ground floor one bed, and has electric heating and double glazing. There is an open plan dining/kitchen with lounge area, a good sized double bedroom and tiled bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. There are built in appliances in the kitchen, Located in Brierley hill town and short distance walk from Merryhill shopping centre, EPC E, No DSS, NO PETS, Available Now for Long Term.

£385 PCM & FEES

**Walsall
Manifold Way**

TO LET



A spacious, modern one bedroom ground floor apartment, with double glazing and electric heating. Having two off road parking spaces, pleasant communal gardens, the interior is modern and clean - good sized lounge with spacious kitchen/diner with integrated oven/hob, and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. No DSS, no pets, long term lets considered. Available to view now, first to see will take it.. EPC C

£450 PCM & FEES

**DUDLEY
Kent Street**

TO LET



A first floor, self contained flat in a detached building, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a good sized lounge/diner, double bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. No pets. Unfurnished, available now for long term rental. Off road parking to rear. Dss considered with suitable guarantor. Virgin media services available at this property. EPC F

£425 PCM & FEES

**DUDLEY
New Rowley Road**

NEW



A one bed first floor flat (with separate entrance) - new double glazing, having central heating. Good sized lounge, separate kitchen and double bedroom, bathroom/WC off the bedroom. No pets, DSS considered with guarantor. EPC rating D

£385 PCM & Fees

**DUDLEY
Castle Street**

NEW



A FABULOUS LUXURY STUDIO APARTMENT. The spacious accommodation is set out for modern living with a double bed, dressing area and a defined fitted kitchen/dining area, a HIGH SPECIFICATION HOTEL STYLE fully tiled and fitted bathroom. Bills included entry Double glazed, gas central heating, DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE location within walking distance of all amenities including the main bus station. Great for commuters - due to

£530 PCM & FEES

**SEDGLEY
Brook Street**

TO LET



A six room house, beautifully converted and with easy reach of Sedgley village. A range of rooms, all double rooms, over three floors with an exclusive loft apartment. All rooms have ensuite, double shower room and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. Shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer. Rear garden with a shed for storage. Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent, long and short term lets available, no

£100 P/W & Fees

**BRIERELY HILL
Landmark**

NEW



A splendid, modern spacious first floor apartment, with double glazing and modern electric heating. Having an open plan fitted/kitchen diner with lounge area off, a double bedroom and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Secure entry system, lifts to all floors, allocated parking, this apartment must be viewed! Long term let available, contact us now for a viewing. EPC C

£515 PCM & FEES

**Brierley Hill
Dadford View**

NEW



Two bed second floor flat, refurbished bathroom and kitchen, excellent views, newly decorated, spacious rooms, two double bedrooms, Allocated parking, must be seen. Unfurnished. Dss considered with guarantor. Available now to view .No Pets EPC E

£450 PCM & Fees

**Dudley
Stone Street**

NEW



A two bed first floor flat in Central Dudley, situated above shops on Stone St. A communal entrance leads to the staircase to the first floor, the flat has a hallway leading to a lounge with entrance to the kitchen, two double bedrooms and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Electric storage heating, no pets, unfurnished, available now for long term. EPC F

£450 PCM & FEES

**Tividale
Oakthorpe Gardens**

NEW



A two bed ground floor apartment with double glazing and electric heating with a good sized lounge/diner, modern kitchen, two good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with electric shower over the bath. Garden to rear. Cul de sac location, good transport links nearby. Available to view now EPC D, No DSS. No Pets.

£475 PCM & Fees

**Netherton
Round Street**

TO LET



A two bed semi-detached house in a popular location, shops and bus routes nearby, having double glazing and central heating, two reception rooms, downstairs bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Upstairs has two double bedrooms, yard and garden to the rear. Available now for long term let. EPC E

£475 PCM & FEES

**Bilston
Oaklands Court**

TO LET



A modern 2 bed 2nd floor flat, carpeted throughout, fully fitted kitchen with integral appliances, spacious lounge, 2 good sized bedrooms (master with ensuite/shower room), large family bathroom, plenty of storage, secure access and parking, unfurnished, viewing highly recommended, available now.

£525 PCM & FEES

**TIPTON
Harrowby Drive**

NEW



A one bed ground floor studio flat in cul-de-sac location - clean and tidy, laminate flooring throughout, lounge/bedroom, kitchen, WC/Shower. DSS considered. Must have a guarantor. Available now, unfurnished.

£350 PCM & FEES

**TIPTON
Leveson Drive**

NEW



Modern two bedroom mid terraced house. Has lounge, fitted kitchen / dining area, to include brand new oven. Two bedrooms and bathroom with shower on 1st floor. Unfurnished. Central heating & double glazing. Enclosed rear garden. No Dss. No pets. Available to view now for long term let.

£550 PCM & FEES

**Tipton
Toll End Road**

TO LET



A professional house share, one room left! Fully furnished. Shared kitchen with appliances, wifi available. Accommodation is over two floors. Short term lets considered, no DSS, no pets. All bills included, deposit and references required. EPC C

£110 P/W & Fees

**Dudley
Himley Road**

TO LET



A development of immaculately presented one and two bedroom recently refurbished modernised flats. AVAILABLE NOW situated on the Himley road within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Newly fitted kitchens including integrated oven/hobs. Gas central heating, Modernised Bathroom Suite, NO DSS, No Pets, EPC D, Viewing is highly recommended call now to register your interest! Prices range from £495 pcm to £595pcm.

£475-£535 PCM & Fees

**WEDNESBURY
Phonex Rise**

TO LET



Trinity Property is pleased to offer a 2 Bedroom Terraced House which consists of: 2 Bedroom, Lounge with Patio door, Fitted kitchen, Bathroom Rear garden, Parking outside. Welcome to DSS. The property will be available 15th July 2016. EPC C

£525 PCM & Fees

**TIPTON
Anchor Drive**

TO LET



A modern two bed 3rd floor apartment with double glazing and electric heating, secure entry system, having a lounge/diner with double glazed doors and Juliet balcony to the front with fitted kitchen off, two double bedrooms (main with built-in wardrobes), bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, allocated parking and garage. Available to view now for long term let. No DSS, no pets. EPC C

£525 PCM & FEES

**DUDLEY
Attingham Drive**

TO LET



RECOMMENDED A delightful & modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated within a popular estate close to Dudley Town Centre, comprising of open plan kitchen/lounge, Double bedroom and shower room. Separate storage room with space for washing machine. Being alarmed and outside security door into lobby. With one allocated parking space and guest parking. The property is double glazed with electric storage heaters throughout. EPC-C. NO DSS, NO PETS.

£440 PCM & FEES

**Bilston
Woodcross Street**

TO LET



A three bedroom terrace house in popular location. Having entrance porch leading to good size lounge, fitted kitchen/diner. Conservatory. White bathroom suite with bath and shower over. Three good size bedrooms. Enclosed garden to rear. Available to view now. No DSS, no pets.

£565 PCM & FEES

**DUDLEY
Heath Green**

LET



Two bedroom mid terraced house. Has lounge, fitted kitchen includes integrated oven. Downstairs wc. Bathroom with shower on 1st floor, two good sized bedrooms. Driveway and rear garden. Unfurnished. Dss ok with working guarantor. No pets. EPC C

£525 PCM & FEES



Stunning bespoke home has the "wow factor"

SEDGLEY
£525,000

'Greenbank' 171 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, is an absolutely stunning bespoke property packed with the "wow factor".

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £525,000 with no chain.

Situated on its own private drive in a sought-after area, it lies secluded and within a unique location in Sedgley. It has sweeping gardens and stunning open views. This generously-sized property has so much to offer. It includes a porch, an imposing entrance hallway, three reception rooms, a hand-crafted kitchen/diner, an attractive guest W/C, utility room, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, a double garage and an enormous driveway.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888.



Well-presented family house is both spacious and unique

KIDDERMINSTER
£695,000

<<<

A deceptive and unique detached family home with land, Mill Cottage, Sandy Lane, Kidderminster, is beautifully presented and spacious.

Having been recently improved and refurbished to a high standard, it is for sale through Halls at £695,000.

It is fabulously positioned in this quiet, rural location to the north of Kidderminster off the Bridgnorth Road.

It has five beautifully presented double bedrooms. There is also a wet room, family bathroom and en-suite bathroom, a shower room. Add to this a utility/boot room, four reception rooms, a family room or snug, a kitchen/diner that has been re-fitted, a dining room, office, private grounds, a double garage and a stable block.

Call 01562 820880.

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SEDGLEY, Longmeadow Drive, Northway

STUNNING & INCREDIBLY STYLISH! Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home that has been comprehensively TRANSFORMED to an Architect's imaginative design. With exemplary standards of decor/presentation throughout it briefly comprises; hall, cloakroom, family room, 17'3" living room, magnificent 'hub of the house' 35'9" dining kitchen, Gallery landing (with sky light), principal bedroom suite, walk-in dressing room, wardrobe & shower room en suite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £350,000



UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street

PANORAMIC VIEWS! Spacious, 'landmark' detached upon corner plot offering significant further potential comprising; porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen, walk in pantry, utility room, wet/shower room. Gallery landing, three bedrooms (all with wardrobes), bathroom. Extensive parking to front, rear garden orientated to the southwest. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £285,000



SEDGLEY, Parkdale

Stunning property with many original features and is located in the ALL SAINTS CONSERVATION AREA within walking distance of Sedgley centre. This VICTORIAN TOWN HOUSE benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and has a wealth of living space over FOUR STOREYS comprising; entrance hall, living room, dining room, fitted farmhouse kitchen as well as cellar, utility room, guest W/C, FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom, gardens to front & courtyard to rear. FAR REACHING VIEWS from master bedroom. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

● CARAVAN SPACE !
● TWO CAR GARAGE !
● FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS !
Spacious family home with walking distance of village; gas centrally heated double glazed detached providing hall, cloak, two reception rooms (formerly separate rooms), Huge breakfast kitchen, and a utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom, double garage, carport, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £310,000



HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

An IMPRESSIVE and BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED DETACHED BUNGALOW for those of 55 years and above, which is superbly placed within Himley Village. Including hall, generous lounge, conservatory, refitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and shower room. BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and ADDITIONAL REAR CAR PARKING SPACE EPC C

New price

£234,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

Spacious Freehold THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM gas centrally heated double glazed detached family home. The property has been conscientiously maintained over the years but offers further potential comprising; porch, hall, lounge, separate dining room, breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheltered garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £226,500



TIPTON, Castle Road

EXTENDED, SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed (UPVC double glazed casements to the rear) Detached in tree-lined road comprising; Porch,Hall, Sitting Room, enlarged 20' Dining Room, stylish Kitchen and large double glazed 19' CONSERVATORY; FOUR BEDROOMS (Principal Bedroom with Shower Room En-Suite), Bathroom, lengthy garden with workroom. EPC: E SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £225,000



KINGSWINFORD, Astor Road

An EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED DETACHED BUNGALOW which enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac position, providing a ready to move into layout which includes TWO BEDROOMS and a FULL WIDTH CONSERVATORY. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and a very pleasant enclosed garden. EPC D

£219,950



SEDGLEY, Southerndown Road, Brownswall estate

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviously located on the much sought after Brownswall Estate, this well maintained Bungalow has much to offer. Occupying a corner position, and having gas central heating & double glazing, this fabulous property boasts entrance porch, hallway, living room, TWO BEDROOMS, attractive fitted kitchen, sun room, bathroom, detached garage, lovely garden with driveway to front. EPC:TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £209,950



UPPER GORNAL/SEDGLEY BORDER, Vale Street

Construction is now nearing completion of a gas centrally heated, double glazed DETACHED BUNGALOW short walk from major bus routes comprising; hall, store, lounge/dining room, Kitchen (with various integrated appliances) two bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking for 2 vehicles, garden. Plans available (by appointment) - at Sedgley Office SAP: TBA

Offers in the region £199,950



SEDGLEY/WOODSETTON BORDER, Tipton Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS - Elegant, well proportioned, modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed Edwardian terrace family residence WITH PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS TO REAR and GATED REAR PARKING comprising; porch, hall, lounge, sitting room, rear hallway, cellar, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby and wet room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, traditional loft, gated access to parking for two vehicles, garden beyond and tremendous views. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000



WOODSETTON, Wren Street

Situated in the extremely popular area of Woodsetton, this traditional semi-detached family home has much to offer. Being part centrally heated and double glazed this good-sized property also benefits from entrance porch, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden, garage, with parking to front and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. ●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●● EPC:E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £174,950



UPPER GORNAL, Spills Meadow

A delightfully presented and well maintained link-semi detached in the popular area of Upper Gornal. Being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, this ideal family home also boasts; hall, lounge-diner, breakfast-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C and gas central heating along with garage and enclosed rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



KINGSWINFORD, Hazel Road

Gently elevated within a very popular and convenient location, this LARGE TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOUSE has NO UPWARD CHAIN and offers a GENEROUS layout, which requires some cosmetic improvement, including THREE GOOD BEDROOMS With front garden and a good sized private rear garden. EPC F

No upward chain

£145,000



LOWER GORNAL, Wood Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well presented semi detached home ideal for the first time buyer looking to get onto the property ladder. Located in the popular Lower Gornal area and consisting of living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing with enclosed rear garden and drive with ample parking to front. EPC TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,950



UPPER GORNAL, Goodrich Mews

A superbly presented modern end of terrace property situated at the head of an extremely popular cul-de-sac in Upper Gornal. Ideal for first time buyer or downsizers! this TWO BEDROOM home also comprises; hall, guest W/C, living room, attractive kitchen-diner, bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and parking. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £137,500



GORNAL WOOD, New Street

Built in1856, this stylishly presented traditional terraced property is ideal for any first time buyer. As well as being conveniently located, within walking distance to Gornal Village, bus terminal and schools, this quaint TWO BEDROOM also boasts gas central heating and double glazing as well as living room, attractive fitted kitchen, family bathroom and enclosed rear garden. This property is also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



TIPTON, 107 Thunderbolt Way, DY4 9SG

PUBLIC NOTICE
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £65,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. EPC:D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888
Located within walking distance of many amenities a smart double glazed 2 bedroom GROUND FLOOR flat.



Two-bedroomed apartment for sale

DUDLEY
£114,950

This modern two-bedroomed purpose-built lower ground floor apartment in Lingwood Hall, 12 St James Road, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £114,950 with no chain.

The property's accommodation briefly comprises a modern fitted kitchen with a patio door to the communal gardens and patio area.

This leads to a large lounge, with doors to the internal hallway, further doors lead to two double bedrooms – with the master bedroom having an en-suite shower/WC off. There is also a house bathroom/WC and front and rear entrances to the apartment. Outside, this home has allocated and secure gated parking.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395.



Three-bedroom semi-detached recently put on the market

GORNAL WOOD
£179,950

<<<

New to the property market, this three-bedroom semi-detached house in Linley Grove, Gornal Wood, Dudley, lies in a pleasant cul-de-sac location.

Being well maintained and improved, with double glazing and gas central heating, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £179,950.

Its accommodation includes an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, a kitchen, landing, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage, parking and gardens.

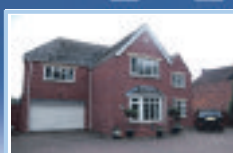
It is within easy reach of Gornal village where a wide range of amenities are available together with access to Dudley, Sedgley and surrounding centres.

The lounge/dining room has a marble agglomerate insert and hearth, plus a gas living flame fire.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.

Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



27 DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY

O/A £649,950

- Exceptional individual detached family home. Set within well tended walled gardens
- Spacious five bedroom accommodation over three floors
- Impressive conservatory, three reception rooms, high quality fittings throughout
- Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom
- EPC RATING C



'WOODBINE COTTAGE', 73 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HAGLEY

£325,000

- Attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage
- Bedroom one with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved double glazed accommodation
- Car parking to side of property with easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING D



NEW

9 OLD QUARRY DRIVE, UPPER GORNAL

£299,500

- Modern detached house in popular cul de sac location
- Bedroom one with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms
- Well maintained accommodation with conservatory & utility room
- Views to the front over Cotwall End Nature Reserve
- EPC RATING C



2 LEY RISE

£199,950

- Modern detached house occupying a corner plot
- Sited on the popular Northway housing estate
- Well proportioned three bedroom accommodation
- Private rear garden
- EPC RATING E



7 BOUNDARY CRESCENT, LOWER GORNAL

£187,500

- Extended & considerably improved semi detached house
- Well maintained accommodation with three bedrooms plus attic room
- Added benefit of a sun room, bar, utility area and sauna room
- Rear garden with decking on two levels and swimming pool
- EPC RATING D



458 HIMLEY ROAD
DUDLEY

Guide Price £100,000

- Character Gornal Wood cottage with footpath access only to the front
- Occupying a level garden plot with potential for extension and improvement
- Approached from Himley Road over an unmade driveway
- Pleasant cottage gardens
- NO PROVISION FOR OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING F



2 LINLEY GROVE, GORNAL WOOD

£179,500

- Semi detached house with three bedrooms
- Pleasant & convenient residential cul-de-sac location
- Well maintained and improved accommodation
- Through lounge and dining area, easily maintained gardens
- EPC RATING C



45 GOODRICH MEWS

£100,000

- UPPER GORNAL
- Modern first floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Telephone entry system
- Two car parking spaces
- Convenient location



37 DALESWOOD PARK, ROMSLEY

£139,950

- New park home enviably positioned on a hard landscaped plot with ample patio areas
- Overlooking adjoining woodland within a semi rural locality
- Contemporary accommodation with open plan living room, dining/kitchen area
- Two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, shower room with large walk in shower
- Daleswood Park is a small park home site, designated for owner occupiers only



BUILDING PLOT ADJ 54 DEEPALE LANE

£98,000

- GORNAL
- Individual building plot
- Planning consent for a five bedroom detached dwelling
- Planning application number P15/1679
- Popular and established residential area
- Excellent views to the rear



NEW

108 METROPOLITAN LOFTS, PARSONS STREET, DUDLEY

£100,000

- First floor duplex apartment with a high degree of security
- Good sized accommodation with mezzanine bedroom
- Secure allocated undercover parking
- Close to Dudley town centre
- EPC RATING C



202 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley
01384 459999

wakeman-online.com



Period character semi-detached in popular locality

This attractive traditional-style semi-detached property in Canterbury Road Penn, Wolverhampton, is for sale through Bartlams Estate Agents at £194,950.

In a particularly popular locality just off Pinfold Lane, this home has typically well proportioned accommodation, retaining 1930s character whilst nicely presented with very comfortably appointed modern specification.

It has a porch and entrance hall

PENN
£194,950

with lovely leaded/stained glass, a bay-fronted dining room with a marble fireplace.

There is also a lounge with a French window opening onto the conservatory.

Add to this a neatly fitted kitchen, a 16ft utility/laundry, three good bedrooms (one with fitted

wardrobes) and a bathroom with a smart white suite including a shower plus a separate WC. It also has gas-fired central heating, double glazed windows, a forecourt parking, an enclosed rear garden including extensive paved yard/patio areas.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Bartlams on 01902 759888 or visit www.bartlams.co.uk



90 BURLAND AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Within a popular location, spacious semi, Two reception, kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, bathroom, garaging facility, off-road parking, rear garden. EPC: E42

Guide: £90,000 / £95,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th MARCH @ 10.30 a.m



BUILDING PLOT 93 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Large plot with Planning Permission for erection of a three bedroom detached house, good location, generous plot depth.

Guide: £85,000 / £95,000



38 PENDEFORD AVENUE, CLAREGATE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Impressive detached ready for improvement, wide hall, two reception, large kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, two garages, store, long rear garden with return frontage approx. 180ft. to Aldersley Avenue EPC: E45

Guide: £155,000 / £165,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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6A ETTYMORE ROAD, SEDGLEY
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THE SCHOOL HOUSE, CEDAR ROAD, DUDLEY
GUIDE PRICE £110,000 - £120,000 + FEES



FORMER SCOUT HUT, DOUGLAS ROAD, DUDLEY
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000 + FEES

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TUESDAY 27TH MARCH 2018

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The reserve price is the seller's minimum acceptable price at auction and the figure below which the auctioneer cannot sell. It is usual, but not always the case that a provisional reserve is agreed between the seller and the auctioneer at the start of marketing and the Final Reserve Price will be agreed between the auctioneer and the seller prior to the auction sale. Whilst the reserve price is confidential it will usually be set within the quoted guide range and in any event will not exceed the highest quoted guide price.

DEFINITION OF GUIDE PRICES
The guide price is an indication of the seller's current minimum price expectation at auction and the guide price, or range of guide prices, is given to assist prospective purchasers. The guide price can be adjusted by the seller at any time up to the day of the auction in light of the interest shown during the marketing period and bidders will be notified of this change on our website and by the auctioneer prior to the lot being offered.



4 HIGH STREET, LYE, STOURBRIDGE
GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £128,000 + FEES



58 OAKFIELD ROAD, WOLLESCOTE, STOURBRIDGE
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £67,000 + FEES



27 GEORGE ROAD, HALESOWEN
GUIDE PRICE £55,000 - £60,000 + FEES



12 HADCROFT ROAD, STOURBRIDGE
GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £45,000 + FEES



38 HILL TOP, STOURBRIDGE
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £68,000 + FEES



17 MEADOW ROAD, HALESOWEN
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £67,000 + FEES



Three-bed property on a popular estate

TIPTON
£135,000

For sale by the modern method of auction, 3 Kenilworth Close in Tipton is available to buy through Skitts Estate Agents at a starting bid of £135,000 with no chain.

Having the benefit of gas central heating and double glazed windows throughout, the property is located on this very popular estate in Tipton. The accommodation briefly comprises a lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway and garden to the side and rear.

The modern method of auction is a flexible buyer-friendly method of purchase. Skitts do not require the purchaser to exchange contracts immediately, but grant 28 days to achieve exchange of contracts.

Call 0121 520 2255 or visit www.skitts.net



Family home has five good bedrooms and large garden

SMETHWICK
£369,995

<<<

This spacious five-bedroomed family home in Burn Close, Smethwick, is well presented throughout.

It is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £369,995. It has two garages, a large rear garden and a private driveway, downstairs WC, dining room, a lounge, second reception room, kitchen and a front garden.

The entrance hall has a downstairs WC off. The lounge has sliding doors from the entrance hall. The second reception room has windows to the front. The dining room has sliding doors from the lounge and a patio door. The kitchen has a gas oven and a gas hob with a cooker-hood, a dish-washer, fridge freezer, under-stairs storage and a door to the two garages. Of the five bedrooms, one has an en-suite.

Call Connells on 0121 212 0800.



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327 Birmingham New Rd, Dudley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)



2 Waverley Street, Dudley
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)



106 Barrs Road, Cradley Heath
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



10 Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)



4 Hillbrow Crescent, Halesowen
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)



6 Merryfield Road, Dudley
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £35,000+ (plus fees)



322 Birmingham New Rd, Coseley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £94,000-£98,000 (plus fees)



8 The Paddock, Stourbridge
4 Bed Detached House with
Planning Permission for Single
Storey Extension to the side
Guide: £325,000+ (plus fees)



284 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury
3 Bed Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £14,040pa
Guide: £84,000-£88,000
(plus fees)



7 Lloyd Street, Dudley
2 Bed Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £5,400pa
Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)

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Fine ride and comfort will win friends

By Ian Donaldson

Hallelujah! A car maker has produced an affordable car that majors on comfort, won't set a lap record round a race track and is not – ever – described as 'sporty'.

For goodness sake, it doesn't even have a rev counter (when did you last look at yours?) and the suspension has 20 patents applied for and has one aim in life; to smooth away the bumpy horrors beneath the tyres.

So, the new Citroën C4 Cactus starts off on the right foot by simply being different to a slew of rivals all seemingly designed by hotheads who would really rather be Lewis Hamilton.

Then you discover that Citroën has added soundproofing to the car and made the rear screen thicker, all in the hunt for a quieter life on board. And still the car weighs less than its rivals, to the benefit of economy and emissions.

Upmarket

All this extra attention has been paid to a car that's basically been around since 2014, when its standout feature was the big wedges of plastic padding along the flanks – Airbumps in Citroënspeak – with back-up protection on the car's extremities.

Well, they've been toned down drastically for the new C4 Cactus (vestiges can still be spotted on the car's lower portions) as its maker attempts to add an upmarket feel to something they must have felt looked a bit too simply basic before.

In the process an impressive 90 per cent of what you see is new, from a wider look to the front and rear and a choice of nine body colours and four colour packs that let you add touches of black, white, red or silver to front fog light trim and the reduced Airbump panels.

Inside, the old C4 Cactus's feel of more lounge than car continues and still looks as pleasantly different as ever, with four distinct styles on offer, all of them applied also to new seats that Citroën calls Advanced Comfort but which are really more the old ones with added padding – and comfy with it.

Deeper thought is applied to the suspension, often a talking point in older and now defunct Citroën models. The new set-up is simpler than those but introduces welcome new thinking, with shock absorbers that do away with rubber bump stops and use extra hydraulic cushions at the extremities of suspension travel.

And it works. Within a few metres of setting



The new Citroën C4 Cactus starts off on the right foot by simply being different to a slew of rivals all seemingly designed by hotheads

off you sense the new C4 Cactus is working hard on your behalf to isolate you and your passengers from the jolts and ridges that make up a modern road. It's not the magic carpet ride Citroën boasts about, but it is instantly and continually more comfortable than its rivals.

The car is a little shorter than, say, a VW Golf and has enough but hardly generous room in the rear seat. Boot capacity is good enough not to be a talking point either.

Buy the cheapest new C4 Cactus – the £17,265 Feel Edition and you won't have the clever suspension. You also won't have much performance (105mph 13.1 seconds to 62mph) with a 1.2 litre non-turbo 81bhp petrol engine doing the work.

Economy and emissions (61.4mpg combined and 105g/km) are respectable but it's little wonder Citroën thinks the most popular newcomer will be dearer and perkier, in the shape of the £19,865 108bhp petrol model in Flair trim.

Its performance and economy (117mph, 9.4 seconds, 65.7mpg, 100g/km) make a convincing case for this as the sweet spot of the new range, coming with the clever suspension and a range of standard kit from sat nav and 17ins alloys to automatic air conditioning, big glass sunroof and active safety braking.

Second least expensive of the new range is a Feel trimmed car (with the Feel Edition as entry level come-on), with prices from £17,965 and

standard kit that includes 16ins alloy wheels, DAB radio, air conditioning, cruise control and a space saver spare wheel.

As well as the 82 and 100 (metric) horsepower engines there's a 130 horsepower version and a 100 hp diesel and the 110 model can be had with an automatic transmission (£21,165).

Out on a mix of UK roads, the 130 hp C4 Cactus impressed with a surprising turn of speed (and the pleasant thrum of a three-cylinder engine) and 49.5mpg on the trip computer suggests an economical life in the real world, where the car's fine ride and emphasis on comfort are going to win it many friends.

Japanese manufacturer dominates



Toyota's C-HR is good value-for-money

Toyota and Lexus dominate a list of 10 best depreciation-busting hybrids.

Automotive data experts have analysed the price of a range of hybrids to find which models lose the least money after one year of ownership.

Buyers looking for a good value-for-money hybrid should opt for a Toyota C-HR, according to automotive data experts Cap HPI.

The funky-styled crossover, which was introduced late in 2016, topped a list of 10 depreciation-busting electrified vehicles, which looked at the price for new compared with the value after one year and 10,000 miles.

According to Cap HPI, the C-HR retains 84.5 per cent in this time, losing about £4,000 from its average new price of £26,301.

The list is dominated by Japanese sister companies Toyota and Lexus, which take six of the 10 spots. Behind the C-HR in second place is the Lexus NX SUV, which retains 79.5 per cent of its average new price of £38,976, while close behind in third is the Toyota Prius+, which holds 78.6 per cent of its £29,688 price.

Cars from the Japanese manufacturers were also in fifth (Toyota Rav4, 77.4 per cent), seventh (Toyota Prius, 76.6 per cent), and ninth (Lexus IS, 74.4 per cent).

Other vehicles were the Suzuki Ignis in fourth for retaining 78.3 per cent of its £13,444 price, and the Kia Niro in sixth and eighth for holding between 77.2 and 74.8 per cent of its value, depending on the model. The Hyundai Ioniq dropped out the list, retaining 74.1 per cent of its £21,740 purchase price.

New Ford Fiesta ST gets package of the latest technology



Ford has revealed that the new Fiesta ST will get a limited-slip differential and a newly patented suspension technology as it fights to outperform its much-loved predecessor.

The previous generation hot supermini was widely regarded by the motoring press to be one of the best affordable drivers' cars on the market while on sale between 2013 and 2017, so the updated version has been eagerly anticipated – and Ford is clearly not pulling any punches when it comes to surpassing the old model.

An optional mechanical limited-slip differential (LSD) will be offered on the new ST, which will help to tame the power going through the front wheels, providing more grip when accelerating, particularly out of corners.

The system is common on larger, more expensive

hot hatches, but is incredibly rare in the fast supermini segment. Ford says it works in tandem with the company's 'torque vectoring control' system, which uses the brakes to slow the inside wheel in corners to reduce understeer.

Leo Roeks, European Ford performance director, said: "Performance car drivers will be familiar with the dreaded 'one-wheel peel', where a fast corner exit is hampered by an overload of torque to the inside wheel.

"We've tuned the all-new Fiesta ST's mechanical LSD option to work seamlessly with enhanced torque vectoring control to deliver the best possible natural traction without 'burning away' excess torque with brake interventions."

Ford has also created a new rear suspension set-up, which it calls 'force vectoring springs'. The American

car manufacturer says the technology stabilises the back of the car and provides better lateral stiffness, resulting in sharper turn-in without any compromise on comfort. The springs are 10kg lighter than the standard set-up, too.

Under the bonnet sits a 1.5-litre three-cylinder petrol engine making 197bhp and 250Nm of torque.

To make the most of the performance, the Fiesta ST gets a new launch control system, resulting in a 0-60mph time of 6.5 seconds, while the top speed is 144mph.

Ford is yet to confirm the price of the new Fiesta ST, but expect it to approach £19,000 for the entry-level model on account of the heavy investment that's gone into outclassing the old version, which topped out at around £18,000 in ST-3 guise.

Deliveries are expected to begin in late spring.

New Ka+ line-up includes crossover

By James Parker

Ford has unveiled its new Ka+ range, which includes an SUV-inspired crossover.

With a larger interior space than its predecessor, and a fresh tech update, the new range of Ford's smallest car goes on sale later this year.

Prices start from £10,795, with the Ka+ plus also available in either Studio or Zetec spec.

Lifestyles

The new Ka+ Active crossover is 23mm higher than its sister model, has a wider chassis, a larger front anti-roll bar, and comes equipped with roof rails – which Ford says supports active lifestyles. 'Unique' 15-inch alloy wheels and Canyon Ridge bronze paint are also offered.

The Ka+ Active is the second Active car to be offered by the American manufacturer, following the launch of the Fiesta Active.

Ford says the new Ka+ Active crossover "further enhances" its compact five-door model, with its price making it more accessible to the wider market.

The new range comes with a choice of powertrains, including Ford's new 1.2-litre, three-cylinder petrol engine – offering 70bhp – and, for the first time on a Ka+ model, a 94bhp 1.5-litre TDCi diesel engine.

Speaking about the inclusion of a crossover in the range, Roelant de Waard, vice president of marketing, sales and service, said: "Last year Ford sold more than 200,000 SUVs in Europe for the first time, and demand for SUV and crossover models has never been higher.

"Our new Ford Ka+ Active model will this year make the crossover affordable



There's now more inside space

to even greater numbers of customers, with aspirational styling, sophisticated technologies customers would expect to see in much more expensive cars."

Other tech includes Ford's SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system via the 6.5-inch touchscreen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, rain-sensitive wipers, auto headlamps, heated windscreen, heated front seats, climate control, and rear parking sensors.

Mr De Waard said: "Ford has sold more than 61,000 Ka+ models since we first introduced the it in late 2016, and now we're offering customers even more choice with our first Ka+ diesel engine for greater fuel-efficiency and cruising ability, and all-new petrol powertrains that are more responsive in town, all meeting the latest stringent emissions standards."



The new range of Ford's smallest car goes on sale later this year

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12 62	PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 1.4 HDI 5DR BLUE 32015 MILES	£5,995	£5,253
12 62	HYUNDAI I20 ACTIVE 5DR HB GREY 41015 MILES	£5,995	£5,695
12 12	MERCEDES BENZ A160 1.5 BLUE SILVER 48866 MILES	£5,995	£5,897
13 63	SKODA FABIA SE 1.2 *ALLOYS* BLUE 17803 MILES	£6,995	£6,387
13 13	SEAT IBIZA EST 1.6 FR TDI *SAT NAV* BLACK 62045 MILES	£6,995	£6,595
09 09	MINI COOPER S 1.6 CHILLI PACK GREY 44000 MILES	£6,995	£6,782
13 13	HYUNDAI IX20 ACTIVE 1.4 GREY 42000 MILES	£6,995	£6,787
15 15	VOLKSWAGON UP HIGH *SAT NAV* BLACK 23276 MILES	£7,750	£7,198
14 14	SPLASH 5DR HAT 1.2 SZ4 AUTO BLUE 6301 MILES	£7,650	£7,398
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14 64	SKODA OCTAVIA EST SE BUSINESS TDI RED 49515 MILES	£9,450	£8,912
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Vauxhall marks 25 years of Corsa with great deal

By James Parker

Vauxhall marks a 25th birthday with a special offer on the iconic Corsa.

An era famous for Britpop, Walkmans, shell suits and The Spice Girls, the 1990s was a standout decade for British culture that welcomed another icon in 1993 – the Vauxhall Corsa.

One of the nation's most beloved vehicles, the Corsa, is celebrating its 25th year in the UK, and to mark the occasion Vauxhall is offering a brand new Corsa from just £149 per month, with a £149 initial rental* – just in time for it to wear a new '18' plate, too.

In a deal that would have surprised buyers back in 1993, let alone 2018, the Vauxhall Corsa on offer – an Energy three-door 1.4 (75PS) – is worlds apart from its original namesake.

For example, who'd have thought 25 years ago that a personal assistant could be accessed directly from the comfort of your car via Corsa's clever OnStar system?

But Vauxhall's best-seller has always moved with the times.

The Corsa was born with cassette players and now offers Apple CarPlay; its most popular engines have almost doubled in power; and its interior dimensions have grown significantly. But while design and tech have changed over 25 years, the Corsa's amazing



The Corsa A was renamed the Vauxhall Nova

value hasn't, its price only increasing by £3,850. The original Corsa Supermini was first introduced alongside supermodels Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista.

Like Kate Moss, who also made her screen debut at the time, the Corsa has been part of British culture since 1993.

As Vauxhall's best-selling model, over two million have been sold in the United Kingdom – that's the equivalent of nine purchases an hour.

Leon Caruso, retail sales director at Vauxhall Motors comments: "The Corsa has played such an integral part in British culture over the past 25 years, I think it'd be difficult to find someone who hasn't owned or had a friend or family member who has owned a model.

"That's why we're celebrating the Corsa's quarter-century anniversary year with our best-ever offer: a Corsa Energy for just £149 per month, with a £149 initial rental*.

"I encourage you to hot foot it down to your local Vauxhall retailer to take advantage of this fantastic, industry-leading offer."

For more details on the Corsa offer, go online to <http://www.vauxhall.co.uk> or visit your local Vauxhall retailer.

*Terms and conditions apply.



A new Corsa could cost just £149 per month



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Audi's SQ5 is powered by a new 3.0 litre, V6 petrol engine

By John Griffiths

We hear a lot about crossovers in the motoring world – not surprising since it's by far the fastest growing sector of the market, while more traditional saloons and hatchbacks are on the decline.

Crossover is normally used to refer to a car which combines some of the best features of a sports utility vehicle with an estate. But what if you throw into the mix the practicality of a people carrier and supercar performance? Well Audi has, with its new SQ5 and SQ7 models (the numbers 5 and 7 refer to the number of seats) which offer luxury motoring combined with pace and performance which leave the opposition behind.

Naturally you'll pay a premium price, but actually less than some of its rivals – but you know you're getting a car which performs and handles in the way you'd expect from a company with its long motorsport experience.

It's a formula that seems to work, as Audi's sporting models are in demand, with sales bucking the trend and actually increasing despite the cost.

Safety and traction in a wide variety of conditions are standard in both, with the renowned quattro four wheel drive system and torque control on individual wheels, allowing you to put the power down and stay on track.

The SQ5, which starts at £51,925, is powered by a new 3.0 litre, V6 petrol engine with 354Ps of power – up from standard Q7's 252 and 286 in the top-performing petrol and diesel models respectively. Since it's turbocharged, it also has a whopping 500Nm of torque on tap from as low as 1,700rpm. Not only does that mean a 0 to 62mph



The SQ7 is in supercar territory

sprint time of 5.4 seconds, it means progress is smooth and linear virtually from standstill.

While the SQ7 is capable of crossing the odd muddy field or forest track, it isn't meant as a serious mudplugging and that's reflected in its suspension set-up and therefore it's on-road manners. It has an electronically controlled continuous damping control, which reacts to changing conditions but can be set to the driver in either comfort or stiffer sporting modes.

What is remarkable in such a large car – and even more so in the case of the larger but similarly equipped SQ7 – is just how well they handle. The feeling is one of driving a sports hatchback which belies their size: sharp, accurate steering (aided by the quattro and torque vectoring systems), quick turn-in to corners and smooth, roll-free cornering. The ride quality wouldn't come in for criticism in a premium executive car.

If you think the SQ5 is quick, the SQ7 (although bigger) is quicker still – in fact it's in supercar territory with a 0 to 62mph sprint time of under five seconds.

It has 435Ps of power, but what makes it such a smooth performer is more the jaw-dropping 900Nm of pulling power which is on tap from 1,000rpm, barely above tickover. It's also the more economical of the two (official average 39.3mpg compared to 34mpg for the SQ5's 3.0 TFSI engine) but of course the initial outlay is higher – £73,945 to be exact.

As well as it's typical Audi 'face', the SQ7 shares its 'little' brother's auto transmission, quattro system and other driving dynamics and safety systems.

Apart from being bigger on the outside, it also has seven seats in a flexible arrangement depending on the needs of individual passengers or cargo.

Both cars are equipped as you'd expect of top of the range premium models, from comprehensive infotainment and connectivity systems to sumptuous leather upholstery and climate control. Plus, of course, Audi's 'virtual cockpit' – the multi-adjustable, digital instrument display which is among the most comprehensive and clear in the business.

Both cars stand out because they provide an excellent driving experience with no compromise for the sort of serious off-roading where, let's face it, few premium SUVs are ever likely to venture.

For the owner/driver, the two SQs provide practical family transport without having to sacrifice driver pleasure.

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LANDSCAPING

Fencing, Patios and Driveways, Turfing and Artificial Grass, Retaining Walls, Pond Installation & Garden Clearance

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www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands

Specialists in Patios,

Driveways, Paths, Fencing,

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FREE QUOTE

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REWIRING EXPERTS.CO.UK

All domestic and commercial

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INSTALLATIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

Property Maintenance

KOMO SERVICES

(WEST MIDLANDS) LTD

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

ESTABLISHED 1977

Services

✓ UPVC

✓ Windows

✓ Doors

✓ Guttering

✓ Fascia & Soffits

✓ Misted Window Repairs

✓ Gutter & Conservatory

Cleaning

✓ Upgrade Locks to High

Security Locking

✓ Locks Replaced

FROM SINGLE TO FULL HOUSE

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

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Fix a Home Scheme

Most DIY Jobs covered please call

01902 885112 or Mob. 07932651294

The ASA regulates ads on websites.

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ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

Plumbing

NEED A PLUMBER OR JOBS DOING AROUND THE HOUSE?

Give Ian a call
I fit Bathrooms, Outside
Taps, Flat Pack, etc

Outside Taps Supplied
& Fitted ONLY £55!

FREE QUOTES

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ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
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- Discounted for OAPs
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FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing

Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

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Save £££

All size skips and all areas covered

Same day delivery faster than

A phone call!!!

Open 7 days a week

Scrap cars removed for FREE

07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM

Tree Surgeon

TREE SURGEONS

11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING

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info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

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Trees felled, hedges trimmed, stumps removed, tree reports. Fully insured.

Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.

01902 892652

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E: treebloke@aol.com

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20% Discount

Local Specialists

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For All aspects of cleaning & repair call

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FREE quote on

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We Fit UPVC

Soffits & Fascias

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING
Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run
Funeral Directors
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Headstones: Norah 01902 714530
or Dudley, Laura 01384 263452
www.hopcraft-funerals.co.uk
"Proudly independent"

Lost & Found



BLACK TABBY
Male, striking markings, missing from Limes Road, Tettenhall, since Feb 16. Microchipped and neutered. Please check sheds/garages. Much loved and missed.
Any information
07773 560625.
Please like and share his Facebook page 'Find Missing Monty'

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

Capitol Mobility Showroom
located in Bath St. Bilston next to Morrisons with FREE parking
MOTABILITY DEALER
OVER 25 YEARS OF RELIABLE SALES AND SERVICES OF NEW AND USED MOTABILITY EQUIPMENT, STAIRLIFTS AND ADAPTIONS.
FREE HOME DEMONSTRATIONS.
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

MOTABILITY SCOOTER 4 wheel, Hartway make, very good condition, hardly used. Bargain £400. 07562 238603.

MOTABILITY SCOOTERS WANTED.
Any condition working or not.
Call 07967 003600.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect asap. Cash paid. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN!
Motomove for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

Caravans/ Motorhomes

AVONDALE DART 2002
As new awning and canopy. Tall sleeping annex. Motor mover and awning mate. Lots of extras too many to mention.
£5,000 ono.
01902 270658

CARAVAN for sale, North Wales, must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.



CARAVAN HOLIDAY HOME
Sited on family owned site, fully equipped, Mid Wales, 39ft x 12ft. 2 bed, sleeps 6. The site has many facilities. Fully furnished, D/C, CH. Call for photos and details.
£17,250.
07766 664936.

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR SALE from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs, storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

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Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
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Saundersford Bungalow
3 Bed, All En suite, Sleeps 8, Central heating, TV Video, Washing machine, Dishwasher, Microwave
Ring Brochure
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BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
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Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

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COACH HOLIDAYS TO SPAIN
MONDAY & FRIDAY DEPARTURES
DEPARTURES: APRIL-MAY-JUNE-JULY-AUG-SEPT-OCT
10 DAYS/7 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD FROM £209
ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £224
PER ADULT
CHILD PLACES from £69
PICK UP POINTS NATIONWIDE
TEL: 01443 844222
ferriscoachholidays.co.uk

Music Shop

PIANO LESSONS
5 Week Starter Course
IDEAL EASTER GIFT
5 Lessons for the price of 4!
Fun & Friendly Piano Teacher
Call Dawn Elizabeth on:
07973 705739

ASHBURY (Jaz), Takamine (Tan 20G), Tokai (Gold Star, 1983), Tanglewood (Star), reasonable offers. 01902 679660.

what's on

Auctions

AUCTION
At Kingswinford Royal British Legion, DY6 9JG
Tuesday, March 27, 2018.
Viewing starts 7pm.
Sale at 7.30pm.
Free entry. All proceeds in aid of The Poppy Appeal.

3 Home & Services

Collectables & Memorabilia

CAVERHAM LIMITED edition, large plate, Queen Mother's 80th birthday, £35, o.n.o.
07946 449215.

KING STREET TOYS
We Buy and Sell
Vintage & Collectable
Toys & Memorabilia
Open Tues-Sat 10-4pm
01902 276222
www.rewind-vintage-toys.co.uk

LIMITED EDITION set of five dog plates, Westies, Terriers.
£80, o.n.o.
07946 449215.

ROYAL WORCESTER Porcelain plates, set of 4, Celebration of the Queen's Reign, £80, o.n.o.
07946 449215.

SPODE 1926 Billingsley Rose, full dinner service, terrines, bowls, etc.
£300, o.n.o.
07946 449215.

Furniture

CAST IRON FOUR POSTER bed, complete with bed linen, cream Nottingham lace, £1,200, o.n.o.
07946 449215.

CHESTERFIELD SUITE. Three seater settee and two armchairs. Brown. Very good condition. £2,200, o.n.o.
01902 492846.

CREAM LEATHER recliner three piece suite, chairs electric reclining, nearly new, £250, o.n.o.
01922 869714.

GPLAN BEIGE large leather settee, £100. Peter Guild rust stripe settee and chair, £100, both good condition. 07437 971290.

OAK DRESSER 70 years old, very good condition. £100, o.n.o. Must collect. 07963 016216.

Items For Sale

SINGLE DIVAN BED, unused, still in wrapper with orthopaedic mattress, £100. 01902 633781.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

LOOK

HOUSE CLEARANCE AT CLAVERLEY

Cooker, Fridge Freezer, Washing Machine, Tables, Chairs, Wardrobes, Dressing Table, Sideboard.

Lots of other items.

All must go.

07973 129143.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

In Your Garden

LAWN TRACTOR 22 HP.
42IN CUT
With collector.
As new. Unused.
Cost £4,000
will accept £1,995.
Can deliver.
07710 169150.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL BRASS/COPPER ornaments/brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys and railways. 01902 745598.

WANTED

ALL MILITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS WANTED BY COLLECTOR

Swords, medals, helmets etc, single or full items.

German, Japanese, British.

Will collect.

Very good prices paid

07511 500337.

CASH PAID NOW! WANTED TOOLS

Hand Tools, Anything considered

01543 452 491

07539 340307

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted. All conditions, railway collections, Scalextric by Tri-ang any condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS

AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!

Est 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands. Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO. Call: 01902 885985 ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

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PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

Appliance Repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers, Autos, Fridges, Vacs and Microwaves. Call 07900 578897/07801 746853.

Bathrooms

SHOWERS

Supplied/Fitted

Replaced/Repaired

Bath to Shower Conversions

Easy Access Showers

Call James for a FREE quote.

07908 052470 / 01902 758494

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

All Building & Roofing Work

Driveways, Landscaping

Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed

Free Quotes: 07837 994465

01902 579 592

Brickwork Maintenance

Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick Replacement, Repointing, Cleaning etc. CRB, C&G, Insured, Free Quotes.

Lee

0789 147 5718 or 0121 585 8263

lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

Domestic Cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU

(midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

Domestic Repairs & Services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

Drain Clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

Driveways & Patios

CRETE BY DESIGN

Concrete Imprinting
* BLOCK PAVING * TARMACING * RESIN DRIVES FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

Electrical Services

A BARGAIN REWIRE, fuseboards, cctv, alarms, showers, NICEIC. 01902 842739 / 07783 471949

ALL ELECTRICAL work from a switch to a rewire. Insured, free quote 01902 575570 / 07958 627434.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07553 320318.

Fencing

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/fit. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WY10 9DU. 01902 723910

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas.
J&E HEATING
01902 562664
07969 687832

Handyman Services

LOCK & CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, small job specialist. Call 01902 853100 or 07934 460864.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN

FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES

Boilers • Cookers
Fires • Gas Checks
Landlord Certificates
Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/
07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that any Gaswork carried out by any Gaswork is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Guttering

Guttering & Roofing 25% OFF
cleaned, repaired, replaced, fascia/soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofs/repainting work. Free quotes. 8am-8pm
01902 722447

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07855 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 554021

Oven Cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 6894 18 / 07910 92 1736

Painters/Decorators

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

CALL M & B DECORATORS

City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 944555

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER

Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle, Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

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STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

CLASSIFIEDS
FOR YOU!

"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

Gary Downes -
Bilston Upholstery

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4
Pets &
Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KIND HOMES WANTED

Lass - 2 year old pretty Border Collie. Lived with children, other dogs, good in car.

Maddie - mature Collie X Spaniel, really lovely gentle girl who just wants to be with you.

Lexi - 18 month tri colour Border Collie girl. Lovely girl who is desperate for some TLC after a bad start.

Lizzie and Bilbo - 4 months old Collie Cross, lovely dogs, lovely temperament. Will split.

Theo - tri colour Jack Russell. Approx 5 years old, vac's/neutered. Happy little chap.

01588 676106.

www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

LURCHERS

Ben - typical Lurcher, fawn / white, gentle boy with a lovely temperament, has lived with other dogs.

Call 01743 872395 or

01588 676106.

Jack

Greyhound / Saluki, approx 5 years, good on lead, loves his walks, timid, gentle boy, ideal pet.

01588 638560 /

01588 676106.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE
WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk

Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

5
Business &
Farming

Accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES
for Small Business, Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

Commercial
Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Business
Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6
PropertyAccommodation To
Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

A FURNISHED FLATLET for single, working, mature person, CH, TV, inc all bills, £365pcm. Also room available £275pcm. No DSS. Stafford Rd, Wton. 07957 595840.

A SMART SINGLE EN SUITE room in a Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

7
Jobs

Full Time General

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH



You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO **£25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)**
We can buy your house in 2 days
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
0800 389 6788 01902 628047

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

We buy houses
Sell your house fast

- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance

What more...
we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees

ACT NOW!

Contact us on:
07796 801219 / 07988 882090

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

- Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
- Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
- No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 01384 913 543

or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May (also 5-6 Sept.)
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July (also 17-18 Nov.)
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: **www.geopace.com**

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

MNA Media

SENIOR REPORTERS

The Express and Star is looking for Senior Reporters to join the news team of one of Britain's biggest selling regional newspapers.

The successful candidates will be multi platform journalists working for our popular daily title and award-winning website.

Candidates should be enthusiastic, versatile, creative and prepared to go the extra mile to find the stories for our innovative and highly respected title.

They must be accurate, multi-media skilled and be able to work calmly under pressure to meet tight deadlines.

The roles, which involve shift working including evenings and weekends, would suit someone who is qualified to at least NQJ accredited senior journalist or equivalent with a passion for news.

Anyone interested in applying should email

Editor's secretary Karen Baker at karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk.

Please indicate in your application if you have a driving licence.

Closing date for applications: 6th April, 2018

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star STAR

8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FOR A
QUICK SALE

FIAT 500
LOUNGE

12 reg, white, 58,000 miles, new cambelt, alloys, panoramic roof, had full service in December, excellent condition.

£4,200 ono.

Telephone 07973 483797.

FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE.
2008, 20,400 miles, 1242cc, silver, 3 door, new MoT, service history, excellent condition, £2,750 ono.
07793 293422.

BARGAIN

LEXUS RX 400H

Lexus FSH, 57 plate,
98,000 miles, long MoT,
excellent condition,
all usual refinements.

Very reliable.

£5,995.

07917 730239.

mitsubishi shogun lwb
Auto, diesel, 04 reg, silver,
black leather, tow bar, MoT
October,
high miles hence, £2,500.
01952 463413 or 07900
044107.

Full Time General

Star Employment

Star Employment Services are currently recruiting for a
Mechanical Maintenance Engineer on behalf of our Dudley based client.

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

The ideal candidate:

- Should be experienced in heavy process equipment i.e. slitting machines, decolling machines, steel industry etc.
- Will be able to carry out routine maintenance procedures fault diagnosis, breakdowns and repair work including working to manufacturer's manuals/drawings.
- Skills involved will include fitting, machining, welding, burning and knowledge of hydraulics and pneumatics.
- Should be able to work under their own initiative with strong communication skills.

3 Shifts will normally be worked. Competitive package.

For further information or to apply for this role

call **01902 319333**

or send your CV to

jobs@staremploymentservices.co.uk

JOB OPPORTUNITIES at Bri-Mac Engineering Ltd

Conventional Skilled Machinist. Full/Part time.

CNC Machinist

Vertical and/or Horizontal CNC machinist.
FANUC control. Must be able to programme, set & operate.

Apprentice Engineer

To join busy CNC machine shop. Needs to be "hands on" and willing to learn. Excellent opportunity for the right candidate.

Bri-Mac design & manufacture Bearing Housings.
A family run business with a global customer base.

Please apply by email to: sales@bri-mac.co.uk,

or by post to: BRI-MAC Eng Ltd,
Unit 17, Thornleigh Trading Estate, Dudley, DY2 8UB.

Telephone: 01384 455042.

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250
go to: **www.expressandstar.com/bookanad**



*TAC's apply
FreeAds

Most ads are
legal, decent,
honest and
truthful.

In 2016, the ASA
removed 4,824 that weren't.

Classified Ads



PEUGEOT 107 URBAN
5 door, 2011, 31,650 miles, silver, part service history, MoT July, superb condition, £20 tax.
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ANNA, 53yrs, attractive blonde lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721**

KIRSTEN 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded discreet decent male for fun friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430233**

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ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busy with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633**

ANNE, mature lady, attractive petite blonde. Very active and outgoing, still enjoying life. Hoping to meet a kindly gent 60+, preferably black or Asian for socialising and life's pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430407**

MARIELE, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853**

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CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

LYN 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429909**

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BROADMINDED male, 72, fit, active, GSOH, caring and loving, seeks N/S, open-minded lady, 66-71, for LTR. **Genuine ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430241**

MALE, 70, seeks female for mature adult fun, can accommodate or travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430145**

MALE, 64, married, seeking a N/S lady, 45+, for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430551**

MALE, mid 50s, N/S, semi retired, slim build, likes walking, holidays, occasional drinks, films, good chats, enjoys life, looking to meet a female, N/S, 50 plus, for friendship and going out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429637**

MALE, 55, seeks female for friendship and going out to pubs and clubs with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 430447**

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MALE, 48, 6ft, married, WLTm a lady any age/status for discreet daytime fun. **Text only replies: 4205862**

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Tommy not fazed by Ghent-ing arena bout

TOMMY Ghent believes the Genting Arena will be the perfect venue to get fans excited again following his four-year hiatus.

The 25-year-old from Coseley will compete on BCB Promotions' Now Or Never show on Saturday evening – just his third fight since returning in 2017 – when he takes on Lithuania's Arvydas Trizno.

'Rock n Rolla' has been reinvigorated since his comeback, with brother Richie in his corner, and wants to use this next fight to show he is a title contender. "I am getting back into my stride again and I am feeling more relaxed with each session," he said. "I am looking forward to getting back in the ring."

Also on the bill Birmingham's Andrew Robinson battles Brighton's Nicky Jenman for the vacant middleweight crown. Wolverhampton's Kyle Williams takes on Nottingham's Jordan Turner for the Midlands Area Bantamweight strap and Birmingham's Kash Ali steps in with Sheffield fighter David Howe for the Central Area Heavyweight crown.

Opening night of darts academy hits bullseye

THE opening night of the West Midlands Darts Academy certainly hit the bullseye. Allen's Sports Bar in Tipton was the venue for the venture that aims to get youngsters aged between six and 17 interested in the game.

Organiser and coach Russell Dingley said 25 young dart aces checked in for the opening night. He said: "I expected six or seven kids, so it was a fantastic turnout. The darting community around here is massive so we were really happy with the opening."

Alfie Jacques, who won the JDC tour in 2017 aged just 14, turned out to support the opening of the academy. He said: "It was fantastic to see such a great turnout, because it shows how many people are interested in darts.

"It's great for players like me because I know that I've got competition and I've got to keep up and play against players like this because they are going to come on just as well as I have in the future."

For more details about the academy, search West Midlands Junior Darts Academy on Facebook.

Extra seats as fans flock to Edgbaston

EDGBASTON is to increase its capacity for its three highest profile matches this year. Warwickshire announced they are to install a temporary stand to increase the ground's 24,550 capacity by 850 seats as England face Australia in an international T20 match on June 27, for the First Test against India from August 1 and for the domestic T20 Blast finals day on September 15.

A temporary extra tier of seating will be placed above the Stanley Barnes Stand. Gareth Roberts, commercial director at Warwickshire CCC, said: "This will be the third time in the last four years that we have brought in a temporary stand as a result of the popularity of the fixtures we are hosting.

"The Vitality IT20 against Australia is now 75 per cent sold out, while year-on-year ticket sales for Vitality Blast Finals Day are 170 per cent up on last year.

"We've also seen huge demand for day three of the Test match against India, which will be a very special occasion as England's 1,000th Test."



Joe Morrell, Mya Brown, Sam Rushworth and Alex Monte-Godfrey



Joseph Mongan with Mya Brown who bagged a bronze and silver

Karate ace still gets kick out of teaching

A KARATE ace has rekindled his love for the sport thanks to his stepson's curiosity.

Joseph Mongan is a former Funakoshi world champion. He's also an ex-World Karate Federation European champion, a Commonwealth bronze medalist, and a third Dan black belt.

After admittedly falling out of love with a sport he has now rediscovered his passion after stepson Leo found his medals and his interest piqued.

Joseph had run a successful academy in Ipswich, but left it behind to move to Staffordshire with his wife. Following the gentle nudge from Leo, Joseph set up JGM Karate Academy in Norton Canes, near Cannock, and his current crop are beginning to replicate his success.

Three of them have picked up medals at national level, just two years since he opened the academy.

"Leo was searching through some stuff and just happened to stumble across my medals and trophies in a box," said Joseph.

Impressive

"He asked me if I would teach him, and that's where it all started, really. I had an academy back in Ipswich which me and my brother ran, and we had a lot of success there – some of our students won some very impressive medals."

The JGM Karate Academy now boasts more than 100 members – the oldest a grandmother in her 70s – with training at Jerome Primary School, Norton Canes Community Centre and Burntwood Leisure Centre. The club's first black belt vies to become a Dan in April and other club members are on their way to claiming belts.

Joseph accepts members from all age groups, backgrounds and abilities, and they have recently competed at the Kyu Grade English National Championships – picking up four medals.

Joe Morell, aged 16, the club captain, won bronze in the Kata. Sam Rushworth, 14, also picked up a bronze in Kata at the 14-15 age group, and Mya Brown, 11, bagged both a bronze in the Kata and a

SPORTING FEATURE

By Adam Washbrook

"Some come because they perhaps struggle to manage their anger, and the sport helps teach them discipline. We really have helped people in all ways, and it's very rewarding."

silver in the Kumite, making her a double national medalist. "Mya is looking at attending the British Championships in May, and we're working very closely with her," said Joseph.

"To be able to compete in both styles at her age is a fantastic achievement.

"There's international championships later in the year, in Poland and Venice. There's a chance we could have members competing in those too."

There has also been success at the USA Open, Central England Championships, The Yorkshire Open and the KAA National Championships.

"We have very high hopes for them and their futures," added Joseph.

But while there is success on the mat, Joseph admits money is sometimes a cause for concern, especially since Karate England cut the funding it used to provide.

"The students deserve recognition, and the sport needs it," he said. "We're actively looking for sponsorships because equipment and travel to tournaments and such doesn't come free.

"Without the recognition and the Press for these events, people don't know we need the sponsorship and it can be difficult at times. At the moment, parents fund the majority of event par-

ticipation, and we do what we can to help.

"For the English Nationals, we put on a raffle at the Christmas party. People were very kind and we made £100 for the students, which we contributed towards the competitors' fees, meaning they paid around £15 per event."

A 100 Kata challenge last week has so far raised around £350 which will help towards tournament entry and travel. More than 20 club members took part in the challenge to do 100 Katas.

Joseph himself has also been sent back to school to learn a new style for his students. "I regraded Shotokan to help some of my students. It was a certainly a challenge!" he said.

"It was a lot of hard work and a lot of late nights, but I got there. It's very interesting the difference in fitness and strength conditioning required, but it sparks my enjoyment to be learning something new, and to develop and push myself."

Discipline

Though his students' medals are at the forefront of his success, the 33-year-old says there are many more rewarding factors to teaching. It's something he says has taken him by surprise. I was telling my wife, it's almost unbelievable the variety of reasons that we have people come to the academy," he added.

"We've had people coming looking to learn basic self-defence, some coming to improve their fitness. You kind of expect those, but then on the other side of the spectrum we've had people come who are low on confidence and who use it help them grow.

"Some come because they perhaps struggle to manage their anger, and the sport helps teach them discipline. We really have helped people in all ways, and it's very rewarding."

With karate now an official sport for the 2020 Olympics, Joseph hopes the academy can grow in line with the sport.

"We're looking to start a karate league soon and invite other clubs in the area so that we can raise the competition standard."

To get involved with the academy, contact them via their Facebook page – JGM Karate Academy.



THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY



Brace for Hughes on Yeltz debut

Nantwich 1 Halesowen Town 3
FORMER West Bromwich Albion hero Lee Hughes scored twice, his first goals for Halesowen Town as The Yeltz gained a victory in Cheshire.

He also had a role in the other goal for Ivor Lawton as John Hill's side picked up three vital Evo-Stik League Premier Division points.

Hughes starred with his first goals in a Halesowen Town shirt as the Yeltz secured three vital points.

With Evo-Stik League Premier Division relegation rivals Sutton Coldfield Town also winning, it was vital Halesowen gained all three points and it was a solid performance overall from Hill's men.

Meanwhile, new signing John Oyenu, who joined from Connahs Quay Nomads, started on the bench.

Hughes could have put Halesowen ahead after just three minutes but put his shot over the bar.

Lee Knight then scuffed his shot as he went one-on-one with Nantwich goalkeeper Myles Boney.

Ivor Lawton headed in though on 12 minutes when Knight set him up after Hughes had initially crossed.

Nantwich got on level terms six minutes later when Matthew Bell scored from the edge of the area.

But on 21, Enoch Ekongo provided a neat pass for Hughes to drill home and make it 2-1.

The two seem to be forming a decent partnership as Ekongo again turned provider on 62 minutes.

His nice run and cross was finished by Hughes to seal the win.

● Hughes bankrupt – page 2

Hoops in action at the road relays

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club travelled to Sutton Park for Midlands Road Relays, a massive event with the hoops rubbing shoulders with the elites.

The men went off first at noon running 12 legs, the first four covering 5.38 miles and the remaining eight legs covering the more recognised 5k distance. Steve Holdcroft got the hoops off to a flyer running 30.12, Stuart Perkins ran 31.21, Dave Norman went off on the third leg running 34.12 and Pete Hood completed the long stages with 37.28. Mark Homer finished in 21.14, appropriately named Simon Blizzard ran 20.43, Sergej Ljubovnikov 22.22, Mark Gatenby 22.07, Graham Wildgoose 23.02, Andrew Weaver 23.20, Richard Jones 23.54 and Rory Campbell 23.22. With a total overall time of 5.13.17 the club placed 34th overall of the 43 teams competing. The ladies were reduced to four on the day so could not be placed despite the efforts of Samantha Hemming, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker, Jane Campbell and Lisa Hadlington.

Hagley Lording it for indoor finals

WORCESTERSHIRE county champions Hagley will play at the home of cricket after beating sides representing Bedfordshire and Wales.

They will meet Woodlands, from Yorkshire, the northern regional champions, in the second semi-final of the national indoor finals at Lord's Cricket Academy at 12.45pm on Saturday. The winners will take on Devon or Kent in the final.

At Edgbaston, Hagley were set an imposing total of 149-3 by Pottton Town which they reached for the loss of only two wickets. They followed up

with a win over Haverfordwest who posted only 98-5 which Hagley passed with one wicket down.

In the WCB indoor league, Coombes Wood (87-5) beat Oldswinford (74-4) by 13 runs.

After losing opener Carl Whyte, Coombes Wood's usually reliant batsmen struggled. Captain Mike Langford (25) dug in, but the total was below par. In reply, Oldswinford started well, losing the first wicket at 45 (Paddy Addis 27 no). The result looked inevitable but the runs dried up and the rate required rocketed. The return of Addis

failed to produce the runs, giving Coombes Wood an unlikely win to stay top of the league.

In the other game, Stourbridge (88-5) beat Pedmore (68 all out) by 20 runs.

Stourbridge batsmen too found it hard going, apart from Ali Rashid with 34 no against bowlers who were a trifle wayward.

Pedmore again found runs hard to come by as the opening bowlers Mikesh Patel and Jevaad Nazir bowled their three overs conceding only 33 runs for three wickets. Pedmore fell further behind the rate and were all out in the 11th over.

Glassboys concede at the death

Stourbridge 2 Ashton United 3
GARY Hackett was a frustrated manager after Stourbridge gave away a last-minute winner.

Substitute Josh Granite was given space in the box to head home from a corner and take all three Evo-Stik Premier points back to Greater Manchester.

It was cruel on the Glassboys who had looked a different side in the second half after a scrappy opening period punctuated by flurries of snowfall.

Ashton adapted slightly better with Matt Gould in the Stour goal having to be on his toes. He was unlucky right before the break when he blocked a shot by Nick Evangelinos after good work from Daniel Mooney but the ball came back to the former, who made no mistake.

Substitute Luke Shearer was introduced by at half-time and he injected pace into the Glassboys' attack, but it was on-loan Shrewsbury midfielder Chris Gallagher who set up the equaliser on 54 minutes, Kaiman Anderson providing the finish.

Luke Benbow was unlucky on the hour and Gould again produced a great save to deny Liam Tomsett.

The introduction of Ashton's Khanye Makhosini, proved vital on 70 minutes when he got down the left and crossed for Evangelinos to finish. Almost immediately after Shearer was brought down in the box and Leon Broadhurst crashed home the penalty to make it 2-2. But the unmarked Granite rocked up in the box and rose to secure all three points.

'RUTHLESS' IN RING RETURN

REIGNING Midlands middle-weight champion Tyler Denny will return to action headlining a six-fight card at the Venue in Dudley next month.

Fight night has been scheduled for April 7, ten months on from when paid pugilists last performed under those lights.

Denny, Kane Baker, Les Byfield, Ryan 'Stewart' Davies, Danny Ball and Humza Ali will occupy the home corner.

Denny laces on the gloves for the first time since his title glory on September 30 of last year, outpointing Tom Stokes for the vacant strap. 'Ruthless' has now set his sights on the English crown, currently held by Elliott Matthews, but will first keep busy with the local six-round contest.

The 26-year-old from Rowley Regis has utilised his southpaw skills to the tune of seven points victories from nine pro contests, with two draws.

Baker, from Bartley Green, has been hitting the road since his last fight at the Venue, where he's racked up three of his five victories as a pro. Baker, 27, has boxed at the famed York Hall in London twice and at the SSE Hydro in Belfast against the likes of Conor Benn, Gary Cully and Sanjeev Sahota.

Tividale's Davies uses the moniker 'Stewart' – his middle name – under instruction from the British Boxing Board of Control. He's undefeated in four bouts with one TKO to his name. There's already two other Ryan Davies boxing professionally but RP Davies has retired on medical grounds.

Kingswinford's Ball has a couple of first round TKOs to his credit, just four outings into his professional journey. Durable campaigners MJ Hall and Chris Jenkinson have gone the distance with the 21-year-old, but Martin Karbel and Paul Cummings were both wiped out early.

Tickets, priced at £35 or £50 ringside, are available by calling 07976 283 157.

Maria took on world champ



From left, women's world champion Ng On Yee with Reanne Evans and Maria Catalano

DUDLEY potter Maria Catalano got to the WLBS World Women's Snooker Championship final in Malta but suffered a heavy 5-0 defeat to Hong Kong's reigning champion Ng On Yee.

On Yee whitewashed Dudley's Catalano, aged 36, who rose to number three in the world rankings after making her fifth world final, and first since 2013, on Saturday. Catalano had se-

cured her final place earlier that day having stunned 32-year-old 11-time world champion Reanne Evans by a 4-3 scoreline in an all-Dudley semi-final.

The World Women's Snooker Tour will return for its final event of the 2017/18 season with the Women's Festival of Snooker, April 13-16, at the Northern Snooker Centre, Leeds.

Basketball call-up from Team England

DOMINIQUE Allen will be flying out to Australia with the England basketball squad after being selected for the Commonwealth Games.

Allen, 28, from Netherton, has been selected for the final 12-woman squad, which will compete on the Gold Coast next month. Dominique, whose father Clive also represented England, is currently at a training camp in Cardiff with the rest of Team England. They are seeded in a group with Australia, Canada and Mozambique.

Father Clive, a coach at West Bromwich Albion Basketball Club, said: "We're so proud of her achievement."

★★★

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through to soft greys and greens. Because of the varied colour palate and range of design options, we are experienced enough to work with you should you live in a period country cottage or on a modern housing development.

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A spokesman added: "As well as enhancing the look of a home, doors and windows need to be able to offer protection from both unwanted visitors and the elements, so our high performance windows and doors are energy rated A++ Gold, with state-of-the-art locking systems, because customers like you would not expect anything less."

Mr and Mrs Lane commented, *"The fitter was very good, tidy, taking all the waste away, and leaving no sign he'd been here, and the door is very sturdy, secure and good quality."*

New for 2018

The range of products continues to grow and new for 2018 is the range of Signature 2 double-glazed windows and doors, which now incorporate the Tricept improved security features that have achieved the top accreditation PAS 24 and also feature a new range of luxury handles.



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Also available is the Trident range, the ultimate in energy saving performance and the only product which is purpose-made and triple-glazed. If you want something different, look at the ever-popular Wodehouse Window, the perfect choice for a modern look or a more traditional design. Aluminium Bifold doors historically suffer from poor energy ratings. Wombourne Windows' third generation bifold doors really have no equal and are not only energy efficient, but new enhanced security makes them the only sensible choice for home owners.

Most of us would love more space and light in our homes and there's no better way than a quality conservatory or orangery. Conservatories and orangeries offer more benefits than you might think. forget everything you think you already know; Wombourne Windows' advanced technology and materials change everything.

Mr and Mrs Chandler commented *"From start to finish, they were excellent and were very pleasant and cheerful. Our windows are beautiful and we would tell anyone to use Wombourne Windows."*

The spokesman added: *"Come and view the full range of products at our newly refurbished showroom and see for yourself why Wombourne Windows are market leaders for all your window, door, conservatory and orangery requirements."*



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FREEPHONE: 0800 085 8518

Showroom Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm

or visit our website **www.wombourne-windows.co.uk**

Crucial questions to consider before buying a conservatory...



A new consumer guide has revealed how to select the right company to fit the perfect conservatory for your home. Britain is a nation of proud homeowners and one of the best ways to enhance the look and feel inside your home is by adding a conservatory.

Apart from the extra space, a huge benefit of having a conservatory is the value it adds to your property.

Did you know according to the Land Registry home price index, conservatories add 7.5% to the value of your home? This is more than kitchens at 4.6% and bathrooms at 2.88% combined.

There are many uses for conservatories, one of which is turning it into a dining area. Imagine enjoying quality time around the dining table with family and friends, creating those unforgettable memories on birthdays, anniversaries and festive celebrations.

Avoid making costly mistakes

Far too many home owners are making poor choices at the point of

purchase, which can have far reaching consequences in the future.

For example: if you are lucky enough to have a south facing garden, with a conservatory you will naturally attract more heat from the sun, meaning it can be sweltering hot if it's not correctly ventilated, or when the temperature changes in the winter, you could freeze without appropriate heating.

With proper planning, you can prevent those two extremes happening, which is commonplace in poorly designed conservatories.

Choosing the right company

The big challenge home owners face is in choosing the right company. The traditional way is to simply call in three companies to quote and then make a decision based on price. This method is flawed because most companies will price match, but might not quality match.

A spokesman said: "Doing your due diligence before inviting any company out to quote will safeguard you. This can be done with the aid of two free resources we recommend, which will arm you with the information you need to avoid unscrupulous operators who provide

overpriced, inferior products with poor craftsmanship."

"Having access to these resources will certainly shield you from making any mistakes. If you are thinking about buying a conservatory, we would urge you to read the Ultimate Consumer Awareness Guide for Buying a New Conservatory. Inside the guide you will discover:

- The seven questions you must ask before inviting a conservatory company to your home.
- How to evade the four biggest conservatory rip-offs used on unsuspecting home owners.
- Learn about the little known government legislation that could end up costing thousands in insurance claims, plus present a major problem if you try to sell your home.
- The eight mistakes to avoid when choosing the style of conservatory.

And, much, much more vital information, including the second free resource to help you make a better buying decision."

Call 0800 085 8518 now to receive your FREE copy of The Ultimate Consumer Awareness Guide for Home Owners.